

# STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 13, 2014

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## Drug Raid

Police seize huge haul of cannabis plants

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TV stars return to the Black Country

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## Owner of dog must pay £2k for sheep

A DOG owner has been ordered to pay more than £2,500 after his pet Husky killed three sheep on a farm.

Ian Passmore was out walking his two Siberian Huskies near Himley Hall when one of the pets, that was not on a lead, ran off. The dog, called Gambit, ran into fields at Park Farm where more than 1,000 sheep grazed.

Cannock Magistrates Court heard that the dog on January 14 killed two sheep. A third died later from its injuries. The animals were valued at £80 each.

Mrs Sara Beddow, prosecuting, said: "The dog began chasing and singling out sheep while Mr Passmore was searching for him."

"He said the fence was down and had been for some years. The incident ended with the arrival of the farmer and the police."

Passmore said: "My dog was rescued when he was 14-months-old and he is fine with people and children. I have never had any problems except for what happened on January 14."

Passmore, aged 43, of Malthouse Drive, Dudley, admitted one charge of owning a dog worrying livestock and another of not keeping his dog under proper control.

He was ordered to pay £630 costs and £2,000 compensation.

## Pampering treat offer

BEACON Centre for the Blind is asking for nominations for women in the West Midlands who deserve a pampering treat.

The charity is hosting a fundraiser on March 27 and is offering one lucky woman a makeover.

Community fundraising officer Jo Field explained that they wanted to treat a deserving lady as part of their ultimate indulgence evening supported by the Francesco Group.

For details visit the Beacon Centre for the Blind's Facebook page.

# CARE AT HOME FOR THE DYING

A CARE plan will be trialled in Dudley borough to allow more people with cancer and other life-limiting illnesses to spend their final days at home.

A partnership has been forged to try out the 'care at home' scheme for two years.

Macmillan Cancer Support has teamed up with Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice, NHS Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group and Dudley NHS Foundation Trust for the Macmillan Specialist Care at Home project, one of six pilot schemes across the UK.

### Swedish

Based on a Swedish system, Macmillan Specialist Care at Home will be led by a community consultant doctor, who will coordinate teams of doctors, nurses, support workers and other professionals.

People affected by cancer and other life-limiting conditions will be referred for specialist care and offered as much medical treatment and support in the home as possible. The programme starts next month and runs until 2016.

Ciarán Devane, chief executive of Macmillan Cancer Support, said: "We know that three quarters of cancer patients would prefer to spend their final days in their own home with family and friends, but less than a third actually do. To allow people a real choice, we need health and social care services to be coordinated into a seamless package of care."

"We hope that by testing the Macmillan Specialist Care at Home approach with Mary Stevens Hospice that we will further demonstrate a blueprint for how end of life care is delivered in the future."

Paula Clark, Chief Executive of The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust said: "We know that many of the patients we care for nearing the end of their lives would prefer to be cared for in a comfortable and familiar environment like their own home."

## Bill watches his business take flight



Bill Pinchers is now running a medieval falconry business after being made redundant from Legge Brothers

WHEN former steel mill worker Bill Pinchers was made redundant he set on a flight path to a new line of work.

The 56-year-old from Coseley has put aside the shock of losing his job at Legge Brothers in Wolverhampton last year to begin a business in medieval-themed falconry.

### Ambition

For Mr Pinchers a lifetime's ambition has become reality after he was introduced to the ancient art by his grandfather when he was a child.

From looking after finches the bird expert moved on to birds of prey and is

now forging a new career and aims to educating children about the history of falconry.

"Falcons were a luxury during medieval times and were often used as a way of paying off ransoms such as were their value," said Mr Pinchers. "I have been fascinated with them for a long time."

"My granddad was a proper Black Country guy and he kept them."

"I used to work at Legge Brothers in Wolverhampton but when I was made redundant it gave me the push to start a new business."

"When you're in full-time work you're fearful of jumping out of the

frying pan and into the fire but losing my job gave me the push."

Mr Pinchers said he will be holding falconry sessions at the Long Mynd, near Church Stretton, in Shropshire, and is in discussion with Ludlow Castle about holding sessions there.

He added: "I have 20 falcons and hawks and I find this line of work a lot more relaxing and less of a strain on the body than working with steel."

"It's a dream job and I love the idea of standing in front of an audience and educating them about an art which I am passionate about."

Visit [www.skyhunters.co.uk](http://www.skyhunters.co.uk) for more information.

## Fundraiser in round the world challenge

A CHARITY worker is planning to run and row 32,000 miles in a record-breaking bid to raise enough money to pay for a new chemotherapy ap

aty at a hospital.

Sam Greatrex was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma in 1995 as a 10-year-old.

He was treated at Birmingham Children's hospital and his fundraiser is a way of saying thank you.

Now 29, the Halesowen man has set himself his own Lap The World challenge.

### Fastest

He is hoping to break the existing record for the Fastest Human Powered Circumnavigation of the world and he aims to raise £240,000 towards the new chemotherapy suite.

He is due to set off in September and will be accompanied by one man who is no stranger to gruelling global charity challenges, 'Blind Dave' Heeley, of West Bromwich for the first few weeks of the epic journey.

Mr Greatrex plans to row across 14,000 miles of ocean and pedal 18,000 miles through four continents, before arriving back in Birmingham after 580 days.

To train for the event, Mr Greatrex is rowing and cycling for around two hours every day alongside his normal working week for Macmillan Cancer Support.

## Timber fire arson probe

ARSON is suspected after hundreds of tons of timber went up in flames in a blaze at Bloomfield Recycling in Tipton on Sunday.

The fire service believes the blaze may have been started deliberately as investigations into the fire continue.

Firefighters remained at the site in Bloomfield Road extinguishing burning embers using high powered water jets. More than 2.5 million litres of water were poured onto the fire as crews battled the flames.

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## NEWS

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## Family feud led to attack on road

A MAN was kicked and stamped on by his nephews as bus passengers watched in horror, a court heard.

Simon Collins was assaulted by Martin Collins, 19, and his brother Terry Collins, 18, from Dudley, in the South Yorkshire city of Sheffield following a family feud. Martin Collins was given three months concurrent to his 40-month term after admitting criminal damage.

A third man Charlie Doherty, 23,

also involved, shouted 'hit his legs off' as an agricultural tool was used to strike Simon Collins.

At Sheffield Crown Court Martin and Terry Collins were each jailed for 40 months after admitting wounding with intent. Doherty, of Overdown Road, Catford, London, received nine months after admitting the affray.

There had been 'ill-feeling' between members of the Collins and

Doherty families leading to the attack on September 17. The court heard Simon Collins rammed his van into a van with the Collins brothers and Doherty inside, causing it to crash into a bus.

The brothers got out of the car and attacked Simon Collins with the wooden end of a scythe. Terry Collins stamped on his chest and head. The victim was left unconscious and suffered cuts and bruises.

Mr Tony Stanford, defending Martin Collins, a married father-of-one of Kelham Gardens, said the attack was unplanned and out of character. Ms Lisa Hardy, defending his brother Terry, of Price Street, said their mother brought the brothers to the Midlands to keep them out of trouble. Mr Nicholas Neale, defending Doherty, said Doherty did not hit anyone. He will be released immediately because of time served.

## Mental health support shake-up

A DROP-IN centre for people with mental health problems is closing.

Dove House, in the grounds of Dudley's Bushey Fields Hospital, is staffed and supported by independent mental health charity Dudley Mind. The centre provides day activities and is a meeting place.

But charity bosses say the service will shut from mid-May and a programme, called Empowering Recovery in the Community, will start on June 1.

The building will be used by inpatients from the hospital during their run-up to leaving Bushey Fields. Drop-in facilities will continue at other locations, such as community centres, and peer support groups will be started. A weekly advice surgery is to be offered.

Dudley Mind chief executive Martin Mueller said: "We know that this change is not popular with some of the people who use Dove House at present and we are doing our best to support them through the changes."

He explained said the decision had been made following consultation with Dudley Council and NHS chiefs who provide funding.

## Head shave boosts unit

TWO supermarket workers raised more than £2,000 for charity when they had their heads shaved off in front of customers at their store.

Deborah Smith and Lisa Cope, who work at Sainsbury's in Amblecote, donated the cash to Russells Hall Hospital's Georgina Unit, treating cancer patients from the Dudley area.

Hairdressers Catherine O'Rourke and Pam McBride, from Elliot Reeve, shaved the pair's heads.

Mr Smith, who works in the pharmacy said: "What we did is easy, compared to someone who is battling cancer."

## Firm wins award

A BUTCHER with a branch in Brierley Hill has been congratulated by Dudley South MP Chris Kelly. Walter Smith, Fine Foods Ltd was awarded Employer of the Year for medium-sized employers at the National Apprenticeships Awards at the NEC.

## Skills from the 1930s used on zoo buildings

WORKERS are using methods and materials from the 1930s as they restore two iconic buildings at Dudley Zoo.

Chief executive Peter Suddock said it had been a 'fascinating' experience to carry out renovation work on the zoo entrance and Safari Shop.

Alongside a more spacious shop, the building will offer a new entrance with direct access from the extended zoo car park and an integral Tecton Interpretation Centre.

The centre will explain the significance of Dudley Zoo's 12 Tecton buildings – the world's largest single collection – designed by Russian architect Berthold Lubetkin and constructed between 1935 and 1937 using a pioneering system of reinforced concrete.

Heritage funding has enabled repair work to be carried out for the first time on four of the structures – the shop, the familiar wave-like entrance, bear ravine and kiosk one, as part of a multi-million pound makeover.

Mr Suddock said: "All concrete repair work has been completed employing the exact formula used when they were built and we've also identified original paint colours. It's been a fascinating journey taking a unique set of buildings apart. So much previously unseen architecture has been revealed and it's also offered an insight into past construction methods.

"The structural engineering for the time was very intelligent. For example, the entrance has 39 pins supporting the roof's five iconic concrete 'waves'. We now understand how that was constructed whereas prior knowledge was very limited."

Costs for the entrance and shop are £417,000 with £200,000 funded by Heritage Lottery Fund and remaining £217,000 paid from the zoo's own coffers.

## Tool loan service needs help



**Kenneth Rodney**, a member of the board of the Black Country Tool Bank

A CHARITY that lends out tools to other good causes is sending out an SOS.

Funding for the Black Country Tool Bank has dried up and its founder and director John Parman's work commitments give him less time to run it.

But he does not want the charity to fold and is now appealing for someone willing to take over the reins, although he would be happy to carry on as a volunteer.

Mr Parman, aged 34, originally from San

Francisco but now living in Dudley, set up the charity two years ago after the Explorer Scout hut in Lower Gornal was attacked by burglars who stole equipment. His partner's son was among the scouts upset by the attack.

Mr Parman realised there was a need for good causes to have access to a wide range of tools if they could not afford them or they had been stolen. Call Mr Parman on 07837 794561 or email [parmanjohn@gmail.com](mailto:parmanjohn@gmail.com)

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## Uncovered skeleton is '200 years old'

HUMAN remains discovered by engineers working on a £6.7 million revamp of Dudley's historic market place were more than 200 years old.

Council chiefs are now having to make an urgent application for a licence from the Ministry of Justice to rebury the remains.

### Skeleton

The skeleton is thought to belong to someone who had been buried in the graveyard at St Edmund's Church – known locally as Bottom Church – near where the remains were discovered in Castle Street last week.

It is not yet known whether the person was male or female or their approximate age.

A police tent was erected over the spot after engineers discovered the skeleton on March 4.

Work on that area of the market has been suspended but the rest of the scheme is still going ahead nearby.

Dudley Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transport, said: "A conservation archaeologist visited the site on Castle Street on Wednesday, which has revealed that the human remains are over 200 years old."

## Disruption for traffic

DRIVERS in Stourbridge were this week warned of disruptions, as it was announced that a road will close for more than three months for work to repair a wall which collapsed more than a year ago.

The wall in Red Hill came down following a landslip on Christmas Eve in 2012.

A temporary fix was done to reopen the road soon after.

But from March 24 the road will be closed again for permanent repair work to the wall.

It will be closed between The Heathlands and Arlington Court until July 7.

## Woodland grant

A £73,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund will be used to fund a three year project creating a nature reserve. The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country aims to turn Peascroft Wood, the only surviving wood in the Bilston area, into a certified reserve.

## Boyfriend 'ashamed' after theft from partner



Stole – Joshua Bannister

A THIEF who duped a man he met on a gay dating website out of more than £1,000 has been placed under supervision for a year.

Joshua Bannister posed as a junior barrister and tricked the victim into a three-month relationship, before stealing money from his partner and from his partner's mother.

Bannister, aged 22, of All Saints Road, Darlaston, was found guilty in his absence at a trial of four thefts and following arrest was summoned to Dudley Magistrates' Court.

Bannister wept as his solicitor Mr

Himat Sidhu told the hearing his client was remorseful and ashamed, and keen to turn his life around by going to university.

Mrs Maxine Jarrousse-Jones, prosecuting, told the hearing that unemployed Bannister posed as a junior barrister when he first met the man on a dating website.

She said that he was in relationship with Mr Bannister for three months during that time, Mr Bannister lived with the victim in the man's mother's house in Coseley. It is alleged Mr Bannister stole money

from a tin in the house belonging to his partner's mother. He also stated Mr Bannister had access to his internet banking and had taken money – £170 and then £1,000.

The victim had got the money from his account back but a necklace, worth £270, and the money in the tin believed to be about £130, was still missing.

Mr Sidhu said Bannister had been too unwell to turn up for his trial but accepted the magistrates' verdict. He said: "He is clearly remorseful of his actions. He is trying

to turn his life around, he wants to go to university and study leisure and tourism."

He added: "This gentleman does suffer from severe mental problems. This has been a sobering experience for him."

Chairman of the bench, Mrs Lynne Coyle, gave Bannister a 12-month community order with a supervision requirement.

She also ordered him to pay £270 compensation to the victim and £130 to the victim's mother. He must also pay £725 court costs.

## NEWS in brief

### Sycamore pick up play award

AN ADVENTURE centre has been chosen as among the best in the country.

Dudley Council-run Sycamore Adventure centre, at Old Park Farm, has won the Outstanding Playwork Provision category of the prestigious Playwork Awards. The awards recognise the importance of providing quality play opportunities for children.

The team at Sycamore, which has received nine awards since it was launched, has 25 qualified members of staff and volunteers.

### Nurses will get tablet computers

NURSES in the Black Country will get new technology including iPad tablet computers, digital pens and clinical software after a trust was given a £89,000 cash boost.

The Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust is one of 75 trusts across the country to win a bid for funding. The money, from the Nursing Technology Fund, will be used on new technology to support nurses and staff in their work. Bosses say the technology will help staff work more efficiently.

### Staff moving to Longbridge site

THE Midlands team of developers St Modwen and its residential business, St. Modwen Homes, are moving to Park Point, at the new Longbridge development but head office operations will remain at Sir Stanley Clarke House at Quinton Business Park.

St Modwen Homes are taking almost 6,000 sq ft of space of offices in Longbridge town centre.

### Man is rescued by firefighters

AN ELDERLY man was rescued by firefighters after a fire broke out in a kitchen in Dudley.

Crews were called to Blackacre Road at around 12.40pm on March 5. The fire was started by food left unattended on a hob. Firefighters wearing breathing apparatus led the man to safety. He had suffered smoke inhalation.

### Beer, bulls, bets

AN ILLUSTRATED talk called Beer, Bets and Bull-Baiting will be held for Clent History Society at Clent Parish Hall, in Church Avenue, on March 27. It will start at 8pm. The talk is by historian Mary Bodfish.

# School wins praise for its improving standards

A SCHOOL which was once in special measures has won praise for improving standards.

Pupils at Ashwood Park Primary School in Wordsley are achieving better results in English and maths just five years after the school was placed into special measures by Ofsted.

But the school has been transformed since then and has seen its rating go from satisfactory to good in its latest inspection report.

### Police act on possible daylight drug deal

DETECTIVES are investigating a suspected daylight drug deal that was spotted by officers outside a takeaway.

PCs Ross Evans and Stuart Lewis were on patrol at 11.30 am on March 4 when they spotted two men acting suspiciously outside a takeaway in Stourbridge Road, Dudley.

As they approached the black Volkswagen Passat a package was thrown out of window.

Both of the men inside the car were arrested on suspicion of possession with intent to supply a class A drug and following a search of the vehicle they uncovered £50 along with mobile phones.

The 32-year-old driver of the Passat and his 38-year-old passenger remain on police bail while enquiries continue.

The package is being tested.

To report any suspicious activity, call police on 101 or contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Headteacher Steve Hudson said staff were 'delighted' after inspectors heaped praise on the improvements made over a relatively short period.

Lead inspector Gerald Griffin said pupils are 'very happy and feel very safe' in the school in Bells Lane, in his report released last week.

He continued: "Pupils' achievement is good and improving throughout the school in English and mathematics and they are well prepared for secondary school. Good teaching provides pupils with work that is both interesting and relevant to their future."

School management was also highlighted as good with the governing body provides good support to the headteacher and staff.

Mr Griffin added: "Teaching is nearly always good, and in some lessons it is outstanding. Teachers show that they have high expectations. Plans to improve the school and the training given to staff have been successful, and it is well placed to improve further."

Of the pupils he said: "Pupils are very happy and feel very safe in school. Their behaviour in class and around the school is good. Pupils are keen to learn and enjoy taking responsibility. We are continuing to move forward and we are hoping to move onto outstanding."

## Thousand year old sword on display



Dudley Museum and Art Gallery exhibition officer Adrian Durkin looking at a Saxon sword which has gone on display.

A RARE Saxon sword dating back more than a thousand years has gone on display in Dudley.

The item has been loaned to the Dudley Museum and Art Gallery as part of its Saxons and Vikings exhibition.

The sword, lent by a private collector, is the only genuine Saxon sword in the exhibition.

The weapon is said to have been found near Winchester and is exhibited alongside a shield boss from the same site.

The exhibition focuses on a 400 year period after the Roman legions left Britain and the Anglo-Saxons established themselves in the heartland of England that had previously been largely Celtic.

The exhibition, which also looks at the influence of the Vikings on Scandinavia, traces the transformation of invaders into settlers and looks at their legacy for Britain today.

It also features a replica Viking longboat, artefacts, coins, costumes and jewellery.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "We have been very lucky to have this sword on loan. It's remarkable to think that it would have been used in battle by a Saxon warrior and is now on display at Dudley Museum. I hope that visitors make the most of this opportunity to see this rare piece."

The sword shows a great deal of corrosion but staff say it is none the less an 'amazing example' and it is exhibited with a hilt and fittings from other weapons of the same period.

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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



IMAGINE, a few years from now, a Spanish-speaking Texas decides to quit the United States and become a member of the European Union. In the north of Texas, an English-speaking enclave of US citizens pleads for help from Washington. What would the US president do? Exactly what Vladimir Putin has done in Crimea.

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UKIP is asking would-be candidates to sign a declaration that: "I do not have any skeletons in my cupboard." Which pretty much excludes all of humanity.

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SCIENTISTS in Denmark say the ecology of European forests could be greatly improved by reintroducing rhinos, elephants and bison. Tell you what. Before "re-wilding" with the real things, why not follow the example of the new town of Milton Keynes when it first introduced its inner-city overspill residents to dangerous-looking beasts such as cows? Bring on the concrete rhinos.

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IN ITS own little way, the Ash Wednesday edition of Thought for the Day (Radio 4) was as significant as Moses bringing down the tablets or Martin Luther falling out with the Vatican. It featured a prominent Anglican priest announcing there is no life after death. You pop your clogs and that's it, folks. You might imagine in the Lenten build-up to Easter that Canon Angela Tilby would offer a few words about the empty tomb, the risen Lord, the life everlasting and all that stuff. Nope. Her message was that we come from dust and go to dust, that death is "the loss of everything" and "we are all afraid of death and its finality." I wonder how many Christians were listening to their radios and whispering: "Yes, but . . ." waiting for something a wee bit more positive and, dare I say it, religious from the canon. Instead, they got a three-minute lecture that Richard Dawkins would have been proud to deliver. If this is what passes for religion these days, it doesn't leave much room for us atheists, does it?

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THIS week's report that angry people are more likely to have heart attacks and strokes is another example of experts rediscovering the bleedin' obvious. The Victorians knew all about apoplexy. I had a great-uncle who died of it while swearing at the snow for daring to fall on his new car. Those of us blessed with high blood pressure know all about keeping cool. It's just that reports like this make us internally, diabolically, incandescently angry.

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"OBESITY is lack of knowledge," declares one emailer in an online debate about grossly obese children being taken into care. Actually, obesity is too many pies, chips and fizzy drinks. There is not an obese adult in this country who does not know perfectly well what causes fatness.

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WHEN you hear the name Steve McQueen do you think of a) the director of the Oscar-winning movie 12 Years a Slave or b) Frank Bullitt, the coolest detective ever to scream through the streets of San Francisco in a Ford Mustang? It's a generation thing.

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IN Mind the Gap (BBC2) Evan Davis explains why London is steadily growing apart from the rest of Britain. The commonest response to images of stressed-out Londoners swarming sweatily in the Tube or cycling to their deaths in clouds of carbon monoxide is to demand some of that wonderful growth for the rest of the nation. London works only because of onemetropolis-wide delusion, that Londoners are the cleverest, richest, most fashionable and most talented people in the land. I'd rather live where the traffic is calmer, the air purer, the growth less frightening. If 10 million worker ants in the biggest termite nest in the world are happy to contribute their taxes to the UK's national good, I'll cheerfully take my share.

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**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

## Inquest hears of dead man's secret

A REFUSE collector was found hanged at his home after sending text messages to his ex-partner threatening to kill himself.

Stuart Hollis was discovered at his address in Boundary Hill, Lower Gornal, on August 4, 2012. The 41-year-old had split from partner Sarah Thompson in October 2011.

The inquest was told Mr Hollis had been keeping a 'secret' from Miss Thompson during his relation-

ship — that he was already married.

She told the court they had kept in touch as they had a daughter who Mr Hollis would see on an 'ad hoc basis'. He had been due to pick up his daughter a few days before his death.

Miss Thompson said: "I phoned up to tell him to not pick our daughter up because she was poorly and we could arrange it for another time. He began to get abusive on the

phone and accused me of using her as ammunition against him. Afterwards he started to send me abusive text messages."

Miss Thompson decided to wait a few days for her ex-partner to 'cool down'. He had also sent texts threatening to kill himself. When she was told on August 4 that no one could get in touch with Mr Hollis, "a chill went down my spine", she said.

His brother Philip said Mr Hollis had tried to kill himself before by taking an overdose of painkillers. "Sarah did not know he was already married, and he did not know how to tell her," he said.

Senior Black Country coroner Robin Balmain said Mr Hollis had been found dead in his garage. Mr Balmain recorded that Mr Hollis had hanged himself after consuming alcohol.

## Father, 83, died as a result of a fall

AN ELDERLY man died after falling in the street, an inquest heard.

Brian Quinton, from Castle Grove in Oldswinford, died at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital on February 23, the day after his 83rd birthday.

At an inquest into his death at Smethwick Council House last week, his daughter Julie Sharman, from Droitwich, said she had a phone call from him two days earlier.

## Bump

She told the hearing: "He said he'd had a nasty fall. I left the office straight away and he was sat in the chair in his lounge. He had a bump on his head and was grazed and bleeding on his nose. He was very shocked."

She added: "I tried to ask him about the fall, he was a very proud and independent man, he didn't really want to talk about it. He had slipped over on a walk somehow."

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain said a report from the hospital revealed Mr Quinton died from pneumonia, along with a fracture of one of his vertebrae.

He recorded that death was due to an accident.

## Brian leads group again

A COMMUNITY stalwart has been named as new president of a renamed theatre group.

Quarry Bank Musical Theatre Society have announced Brian Gennar as its new president. He is well known for a series of community initiatives including projects to help regenerate the High Street and Christ Church. He was also first chairman of the group when it was formed in the 1960s as Quarry Bank Amateur Operatic Society.

The group is performing The Sound of Music between June 3 and 7 at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

## Cats showtime

PEDIGREE and household cats will be on display at a championship show being held next month.

The show is at Aldersley Leisure Complex, Wolverhampton, on April 6 from 12.30-4.30pm

There will be trade stands and craft stalls.

A WATCHDOG will be called in to investigate the transfer of a care home out of council control by campaigners angry at the decision.

The management of New Bradley Hall care home, in Kingswinford, will be taken over by a not-for-profit organisation within weeks.

Campaigners pleaded with councillors in Dudley to rethink the decision at a meeting concerned for the future of its 26 elderly residents and 40 staff.

But members of Dudley Council's adult services scrutiny committee refused to reverse the decision taken by department boss Councillor Dave Branwood. Dudley Council says it can no longer afford the running costs and £75,000 needed for refurbishment.

The New Bradley Hall Action Group will contact the Local Government Ombudsman, which investigates complaints into council conduct, about their concerns.

Group member Phil Vanes said: "Our next move will be to contact the Local Government Ombudsman with a view to making a complaint about the lack of a consultation process, bringing the Labour Party and council into disrepute."

Emotions ran high at the meeting which with arguments between councillors and cries of derision from a packed public gallery at Dudley Council House. Mr Branwood signed off a decision to find a new owner and operator for the home in Compton Drive. Campaigners say this was against the consultation findings. Councillor Branwood told the meeting: "There is no doubt in my mind that the process has been followed properly."

## Broadband views sought

BUSINESSES are being urged to raise their views on plans to install high speed broadband across the Black Country.

The Black Country Broadband Plan has been launched by the region's local enterprise partnership and councils in Walsall, Dudley, Sandwell and Wolverhampton.

Bosses want 95 per cent of the Black Country to have high speed broadband by 2017.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has set aside funding for the initiative.

To take part in the consultation visit the website www.blackcountrylep.co.uk/place/broadband-plan

## Season opens at rock homes



Volunteer Mary Bendall making a rag rug as the new season opens at Kinver Rock Houses

THE historic rock houses on Kinver Edge are being brought back to life.

The carved-out cave dwellings were filled with the smell of baking bread for the first time in decades during a nostalgic day of activities that launched the new season at the attraction run by the National Trust.

More than 300 visited the Holy Austin Rock Houses, near Kinver, as the homes were opened for the first time this year.

Volunteers used a Victorian range for baking and demonstrated the traditional craft of making rugs from rags.

One of the houses has been restored to how it was in the Victorian era and another is preserved in a 1930s style.

The National Trust plan to make activities a regular feature at the sandstone homes, open from 11am to 4pm Thursday to Sunday until late November.

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from £1099



## Building sale funds Learning Quarter

A COLLEGE training centre is being sold to generate cash towards the next stage of a multi-million pound expansion project.

The Dudley College site in Dudley Road, Brierley Hill, is on the market for £850,000.

It is currently used by a small number of students attending fork lift truck training and community-based ESOL English language courses.

The conferencing suite at the site is still available for hire while a buyer is found for the building.

But bosses are planning to relocate the training courses to Dudley sites while other courses will continue at community centres across the borough and at the main campus.

It comes as work continues on the next phase of the Dudley Learning Quarter.

A sixth form centre at Dudley Sixth in Priory Road has already been built along with a vocational centre, named Dudley Evolve, in Tower Street.

Work is also under way on Dudley Advance, a £7 million hub, also in Priory Road, which will offer a range of manufacturing and engineering courses.

## Group have church plan

CAMPAIGNERS say they have taken a further step towards safeguarding the future of the Dudley church where legendary bare-knuckle fighter the Tipper Slasher is buried.

Chief of the preservation group for St John's Church, Dudley, Deb Brownlee said they were awaiting the final go-ahead from church authorities to reopen the church for worship and community use. Tipton Slasher, William Perry, was buried at the church in 1880.

In all, 185 letters or emails in support of the preservation group's proposal were received.

## Forest discovery

A DISCOVERY day offering the chance to learn more about the Wyre Forest and its wildlife will be held at the Wyre Forest Centre, Calow Hill, near Bewdley, on March 30. The event starts at 10am. For more information, call 01299 266302 or email [wyre@forestry.gov.uk](mailto:wyre@forestry.gov.uk)

# Woman found in bushes died naturally

A WOMAN whose body was found in bushes outside a hospital died of natural causes after suffering breathing difficulties caused by a chest infection, a coroner has ruled.

Angela Wade's body was found in overgrowth by security staff at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital on January 5, 2012.

The 35-year-old, who had spinal scoliosis and general neurological disease, was last seen on December 20, 2011. She had been discharged from the hospital following treatment for self-harm.

An earlier hearing was told Miss Wade, of Aaron Manby Court, Princes End, Tipton, had been assessed by a psychiatric doctor on

November 18 after taking an overdose that was believed to have been a cry for help.

She had been referred to the emergency duty team at adult social care at Sandwell Council and also to the Black Country NHS Foundation Trust.

### Unable

An assessment had been carried out on the evening of November 18 as Miss Wade said she was having difficulty with her disability. Further assessments were carried out before she was discharged by the team.

In a letter to the coroner, the adult social care team at Sandwell Council said they

had been unable to get in contact with Miss Wade following the referral after the overdose.

The psychiatric liaison team claimed Miss Wade's case had not been referred back to them, despite social services saying it had. Coroner Mr Robin Balmain had delayed making a conclusion until an investigation into this discrepancy had been carried out.

At last week's hearing, Mr Balmain said that after receiving evidence he was now 'satisfied' the proper referrals had taken place. He recorded a conclusion of death by natural causes during the inquest held at Dudley Coroner's Court.

"After receiving evidence I am satisfied and can now conclude this inquest," he said. "This lady had a chest infection, which is a natural cause."

Miss Wade, who was unemployed, was discovered in the hospital grounds after police had launched a missing persons investigation.

Her body was found in bushes on the boundary of the hospital site. Miss Wade's spinal condition prevented her from walking very far.

Following the last hearing, Miss Wade's mother Carole said she missed her daughter very much.

## NEWS in brief

### Man in court over club bottle attack

A CAR salesman has been charged after a mother and daughter were left with severe head injuries in a bottle attack at a Halesowen nightclub.

Ashley Barton, 26, of Barnswood Close, Halesowen, is charged with wounding with intent after Nicola Hill and her mother Lorraine were injured at Benjamin's nightclub. He appeared at Dudley Magistrates' Court last week.

The case was adjourned to Wolverhampton Crown Court for a hearing on May 28.

### Choir is in need of deeper voices

A CHOIR is sending out an SOS call for more singers with male voices at the top of their wish list.

The Clent Hills Singers, based near Stourbridge, will perform their next concert, Vivaldi's 'Gloria', at Hagley Free Church on May 17 but they need more tenor and bass voices.

Rehearsals are held every Thursday from 7.30pm at Hagley Free Church.

Call Wendy Pettit on 01562 730248 or Anne Jefferys on (01384) 340600 for details.

### Books will help Ugandan children

AN OPTICIANS is donating books designed to help detect sight issues for children in Africa.

Optical Express, which has a branch at the Merry Hill centre, is giving the special books to mark World Book Day. More than 1,000 of the books including an eye test have been given to charity Light-Force International to be distributed in Uganda.

### Landmark hotel changes hands

A LANDMARK hotel near Dudley has changed hands.

The Budget Hotels Group, owners of the Kingfisher Hotel in Kingswinford, has bought 65-bedroom Himley Country Hotel after administrators Zolfo Cooper were appointed for subsidiaries of Akkeron Hotels Group, Barinbrook and Barinbrook Central, last month.

### Homes scheme

PLANS to build nine new homes have been given the go ahead on land off Davies Avenue in Dudley.

A planning application for the scheme has been approved by Dudley Council.

## ADVERTISEMENT

# Museum gets arts cash to keep craft skills alive

## £2k run boost for mayor's charities



Dudley Mayor Councillor Alan Finch with Rotarians Alan Bowler, Barry Wheeler and president Brian Maxfield

THE MAYOR of Dudley's charities are on the way to a massive total after a £2,000 donation from the organisers of a fun run through Halesowen.

The Rotary Club of Halesowen and Rowley Regis handed over the cash raised from the Great Black Country Road Run held last year.

Mayor Councillor Alan Finch took over in 10-kilometre run through Halesowen along with several other councillors and council staff.

Organisers agreed to add the Mayors' charities to the official list of

causes. It means Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and White House Cancer Support in Dudley got a share of the total. Members of the Rotary Club presented the mayor with the money at the Council House, Dudley.

### Blisters

Councillor Finch said: "It was a great event and I've still got the blisters to prove it. But to see this huge amount of money going to my two charities makes it all worthwhile. I am hugely grateful to the Rotary Club

of Halesowen and Rowley Regis and everyone who took part in the run for helping to raise this fantastic total."

The event has generated cash for good causes, including Sunfield School in Clent, Midland Air Ambulance, MacMillan Nurses and Birmingham Children's Hospital's cancer unit.

This year's race takes place on September 21. There will be both a 10k and a 5k route around Halesowen. People can get more information and register at the [www.bostinrun.com](http://www.bostinrun.com) website.

# Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Brian Stanley feels that it's all about service. 'Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people

money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.'

Cloudy2Clear service Wolverhampton and the surrounding

area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. 'The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people

I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated.'

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Brian a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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## NEWS FEATURE

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

LIKE all the great thinkers of our time, 20-year-old Gemma Worrall decided to share her thoughts on the delicate situation in the Ukraine on Twitter.

Of course she did. Does anybody ever have any thoughts on anything these days, without announcing them on Twitter?

But the Blackpool lass's musings on the stand-off between the West and Russia over the future of Crimea really are worth savouring.

"If baraco barer is our president, why is he getting involved with Russia, scary," she wrote.

And that certainly is scary.

Not only can she not spell Barack Obama's name, she appears to think Blackpool is part of the United States. And next year she will be allowed to vote at the General Election.

Incidentally, although admitting politics is not her strong point, she claims to have 17 GCSE O-levels. Seventeen. However did she manage that?

It is tempting to quip that arithmetic is probably not her strong point either, but the sad thing is that she probably does have the qualifications she says. Still, good to 'no' the exam system hasn't been dumbed down.

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THIS week Britain marked national No-Smoking Day, with events held all around the West Midlands.

Meanwhile, the campaign group Tobacco Free Futures warned (before hastily re-editing) that it was 'fighting back at an industry which kills 2 in 1'.

Now that is a deadly industry. Presumably arithmetic is not their strong point either?

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ANOTHER example of the stupidity rife on our social media network is the furor surrounding Emily Slough, a young mother who had been pictured breastfeeding her daughter in Rugeley town centre.

The photograph was then posted on Facebook by some sad case who branded her a tramp. I can't help but think that if the sight offended me so much, I would be wanting to get it out of my mind, not posting it on the internet so thousands of other people could see it.

And then finally, we have the reaction of Mrs Slough herself, who has responded by organising a mass breast-feeding session in Rugeley town centre on Saturday.

Please ladies, enough. I know breastfeeding is natural, but so is taking a leak. It is generally accepted that it is bad manners to do that in the street.

And while the Facebook comments were nasty, vitriolic and spiteful, it is really right for a bunch of militant breast-feeders to use their children as props in a tasteless publicity stunt?

Both sides need to take a deep breath and calm down. There are more important issues to get worked up over.



The new Jaguar Land Rover engine factory



Tata Steel is investing heavily in its Wednesfield site



The £11m investment in the new Tipton Leisure Centre

## THROUGH THE YEARS

## 1984

A NAKED duel on a nippy December afternoon landed two men with £50 fines. Lichfield magistrates fined the men for behaviour likely to cause a breach of the peace following the bizarre stunt, which took place in broad daylight in front of men, women and children.

FORMER Mayor of Wolverhampton Ted Lane, thought to be Britain's longest serving councillor, was facing expulsion from the Labour Party after 67 years. Councillor Lane had announced he would stand as an independent Labour candidate after being deselected by his ward party.

THE leaders of 13,000 Staffordshire miners urged their men to join strike action which had paralysed half of the country's pits. The Midlands National Union of Mineworkers said a ballot would take place.

## 1994

A LOCAL authority defended its decision to threaten a man with court action over £1 owing on his council tax. Clive Hayward, of Willenhall, was sent a demand after paying his £431 bill in 10 instalments of £43. "I thought they would have added £1 to one of the instalments," he said. "The council has been ridiculously heavy-handed."

FRANK Sinatra was reported to be in good shape and anxious to return to the stage days after collapsing during a concert in Virginia.

POLICE removed the distinctive sign outside the Gloucester 'House of Horrors' after a ninth body was found buried at the site. Its owner, Gloucester builder Fred West, appeared before magistrates in the city charged with five more murders, in addition to the three charges he was already facing.

## 2004

TWO young women were rescued after their car plunged 18ft into the River Severn near Ironbridge, forcing them to clamber onto the roof as the vehicle sank into freezing waters. It was believed the driver had served to avoid a badger.

THOUSANDS queued outside Birmingham's University of Central England to audition for the Big Brother house. One hopeful got a friend to film him running through a supermarket in swimming trunks while another dressed in a chicken outfit.

A YOUNG man in the congregation of a Wolverhampton church was forced to empty his pockets by fellow churchgoers after being caught stealing from the collection plate. He fled empty handed.

# Skills gap key to better business

SIMON PENFOLD outlines the good, the bad and the ugly of the Black Country's economic situation

**WE are building more homes in the Black Country, our children are doing better at school and more people are in work than there were a year ago.**

There has been a 3,000 hike in the workforce across Wolverhampton, Walsall, Dudley and Sandwell.

However, the nitty-gritty of this is that 9,000 new jobs created in the private sector were partly wiped out by the loss of 6,000 public sector jobs as Government spending cuts bit deep across local authorities and state-funded bodies.

At the same time, people in the Black Country are much less physically active than the UK average. And figures for infant death, diabetes and childhood obesity are significantly worse than for the UK as a whole.

The facts and figures are all revealed in a newly published Economic Review, a look at the Black Country and the state we are in. It has been compiled by the economic intelligence unit of the Black Country Consortium, the organisation set up between local business leaders and local authorities more than a decade ago to co-ordinate their efforts to regenerate the area.

To keep track of progress – or the lack of it – the Consortium compiles huge amounts of data every year.

One of the key numbers it produces is something called the 'output gap'. It effectively compares how well the Black Country is performing as a local economy, and how well it should be performing compared to the rest of the UK.

The bad news is that an overall assessment shows the Black Country's economy is around £7.8 billion short of where it needs to be. The worse news is that figure has been getting bigger.



Dudley Castle is still key to attracting visitors to the area

Since 2004 it has gone up by around £3 billion, and last year it rose another £200 million.

This is partly because we have too few people in jobs, and partly because our people don't have good enough skills. But the biggest problem is that the Black Country economy lacks dynamism – it underperforms in terms of competition, investment, innovation and enterprise. We simply don't create enough businesses.

In the UK as a whole, for every 10,000 people around 42 businesses are created every year. In the Black Country that falls to just 30. Across the area that means 1,453 businesses that should be started, aren't.

And the area loses out in terms of wages, spending, taxes and all the other benefits healthy businesses bring to an area to the tune of £5.4 billion. But the businesses we do have are often doing very well indeed.

Around 90,000 people in the Black Country have jobs in what is now called the High Value Manufacturing sector.

That is firms making parts for cars, planes, oil rigs, pipelines and anything else that requires engineering know-

how and precision. The result is that the Black Country has become the heart of the UK's engineering components industry. Parts made in Dudley, West Bromwich, Oldbury, Walsall or Wolverhampton are now going into virtually every car and aircraft now being produced in the UK.

Companies like Jaguar Land Rover, with its new engine plant on the i4, and Tata Steel, with its major investment at the Wednesfield Steelpark, see the Black Country as an area with a manufacturing future. But that has brought its own set of problems – the biggest of which is the region's skills gap, says Stewart Towe, chairman of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Mr Towe said the skills issue was 'absolutely critical' and is appealing to more young people – and their parents – to consider careers in engineering and manufacturing. Mr Towe, who is also head of Smethwick manufacturing group Hadley, said: "One of our biggest problems is that we have too many 'lifestyle businesses'."

## Earnings

A lack of skills is a big factor in another area where the Black Country is still losing out: wages. The average earnings for a Black Country person in full time work last year was £23,256. That is up £216 on the previous year but still £3,761 short of the national average.

Unemployment remains high, at 11.2 per cent compared to eight per cent nationally. To get us up to the national average would mean more than 16,000 people finding a job.

Transport is another big issue, and the last year has seen work under way on the £36 million M54 junction 2 scheme, improving access to the i54 business site, as well as the £25m A41 West Bromwich Underpass.

The Economic Review shows that the Black Country is making progress in areas such as education and training, building new homes and – gradually – increasing jobs. But it also underlines that this area has a long way to go.

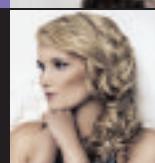
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## Murder warrants capital punishment

WITH modern technology and, in this case, television evidence and admission of guilt, any thinking person might accept that the premeditated murder of a British soldier on a British street warrants nothing less than capital punishment.

Furthermore, if we lived in a true democracy where the wishes of the majority are listened to whilst at the same time providing checks and balances to protect minorities, the monsters responsible would currently be awaiting the rope.

To religious readers who believe that we should never take a human life and that

only God can judge, I say that as God seems to have delegated his work to mankind in every other sphere, it therefore seems appropriate that we should also take this into our purview.

If it is appropriate to kill our enemies on an industrial scale in time of war, what is the difference between death in battle or death at the end of a hangman's rope? The only grouping who can genuinely claim to be against capital punishment are conscientious objectors.

A M ETHERIDGE  
Sedgley

## Thanks to hospital for care... but

A BIG thank you on behalf of my sister June Wise, myself and all family members to Russells Hall Hospital.

My sister has recently been discharged after spending 11 weeks in the hospital. The first 11 days in the Critical Care Unit following surgery. The doctors, nurses and all the staff on critical care were first class, private could not have been better.

Special thanks to Dr Patel who visited my sister every two weeks on each ward she was on, he became a very good friend.

She wants to thank all the doctors and staff who nursed her back to good health, too many to name. Best wishes to the many friends she made.

The worst part were the meals, which need a good overall, food is part of the recovery. The other big moan is getting on the car park at afternoon visiting and the charge which does not go to the hospital.

V CARTWRIGHT  
Dudley

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial,  
51-53 Queen Street  
Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley  
@expressandstar.co.uk

## Z-Cars actor was always a joy to watch

I AM sad to hear of the death of James Ellis, aged 82, the actor who played Bert Lynch in Z-Cars during the 1960s and 70s.

He was a fantastic actor and a joy to watch.

When Walsall's very own Frank Windsor, who played Detective Sergeant John Watt in Z-Cars, was in a scene with James, it certainly brought the series alive and it suddenly dawned on the audience why Z-Cars was such a popular BBC TV drama. Frank was a pupil of Queen Mary's Grammar school.

The themes of the show could be light-hearted, serious and dark, from racism to child abuse, and it dealt with the real life issues of

Britain in a brave and enlightened manner.

Often the stories were shown to an audience that had for years been brought up on the coiness of Dixon of Dock Green and PC 49.

Z-Cars became the daddy of all TV Cop shows, eventually earning itself a spin-off drama called Softly Softly.

We have James Ellis, and Walsall's Frank Windsor and all the others involved in the series to thank for that ground breaking period in TV.

I was under the impression James Ellis settled and lived in Dudley for a time, am I correct?

IAN PAYNE

## It would be good to talk

CAN any national company be more inaccessible than BT?

Whilst there are Orange, T-Mobile, uncle Tom Cobley and all phone shops, does anyone know to a BT shop where I can go in to get any questions answered face to face?

It really is exasperating to contact a 'talking voice' with any concerns I have, and when I do manage to get through to someone, it is somebody in some foreign land.

I despair.

Am I alone in this or are others in the same boat?

L SHELDON  
Dudley

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## LETTERS

## Toilet is in wrong place

CASH-STRAPPED Dudley Council are going to knock down a perfectly good toilet block so that we can have a view of the castle. The new toilet will be in what was Levines furniture store.

Dudley Council do not own this property and will have to pay rent, which means the public will be charged 20p to use the loo.

The council have not taken into account that mothers with young children and the elderly with shopping will now have to cross a busy road and have a walk to the new toilets.

Also I have watched as children have come running out into the market place from the toilets. What happens when they do this from the new toilets into the path o'Thanks again, Dudley councillors.

D E WALKER  
Dudley



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## MEMORY LANE



Julie in 1991 with Princess Diana at the opening of the Maternity Unit at the Manor Hospital



'Amazing smile' – Former Pc Julie seen in 2005



Saddlers fan Julie in the 1980's at the then Walsall FC ground Fellows Park



Julie at a crime prevention stand at the Saddlers Centre



Julie's husband Mark with daughter Danielle Roberts

# Royal flower girl Julie, who lit up force with her dazzling smile

by Craig Hughes

**SHE** met Princess Diana, Muhammad Ali and was regularly seen on police duty covering her beloved football club, the Saddlers.

Tributes have now been paid to former police officer Julie Skidmore who served in the Black Country during her 30 year career in the force, and who lost her six year battle with ovarian cancer last month.

More than 400 people attended her funeral on Monday. The popular 56 year-old from Walsall was the first female officer at Saddlers games and was even captured on camera kicking the ball back into play at the old Fellows Park ground.

She continued to hold the football club close to her heart as a fan and even worked in the Bescot Stadium control room after her retirement from the force.

During her three decades patrolling the beat in Walsall she received a commendation for bravery in 1996 after being threatened with a 14 inch sword after executing a search warrant in Pleck.

She was known to many in the community under her maiden name Dale having joined the force in August 1976.

She mainly covered the town centre, Alton, Pleck and Caldmore areas and later on was also involved with CID.

The grandmother-of-one was diagnosed with cancer and would regularly travel to Surrey for treatment at the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Even during this and following her retirement she still worked as a civilian at stations including Erdington, Sutton Coldfield and at Lloyd House in Birmingham. She would help set up open days.

Following her diagnosis her family were braced she may have up to just two more years, but due to her determination and care she prolonged her life for years more.

She underwent clinical trials at the hospital and after the support she received the Julie Skidmore Climb Every Mountain Fund has been created in her honour and will raise money for the Royal Marsden Hospital.

Cancer Charity. A charity walk of 40 miles from Walsall to Port Vale for the game in April is also being planned to raise money for the cause.

Mrs Skidmore, of Pelsall, passed away last month and leaves behind husband of 27 years Mark and daughter Danielle.

After being able to prolong her life in the last she managed to see her daughter get married, welcome the birth of her first grandchild Georgy last year and go to her favourite place Salzburg.

## Amazing

Daughter Danielle, aged 27, said: "She was very bubbly, very infectious and it has hit everyone very hard."

"She lived for everybody else, she would do anything for anybody, she had this amazing smile."

"She remained a Wpc, she never really wanted to climb the ladder, on reflection she always said maybe I should have done it but she was always involved in the community. She was the first female police officer to police a game down at Fellows Park. She

was notorious for being on the touchline and there is a picture of her kicking the football in her uniform. She still worked as a civilian while she was having treatment."

As a police officer she helped set up Hospital Watch to help improve security at Walsall Manor.

She was on security duty when boxer Ali was in Birmingham for a promotional event and one of her biggest highlights was to meet Princess Diana when she visited the hospital's maternity unit in 1991.

Danielle, aged 27, said: "When Diana was given flowers she passed them back to her, she called herself Diana's flower girl. She loved it she was so proud."

Mrs Skidmore and the fundraising in her memory will be featured in the Walsall matchday programme for the weekend's game against Wolves.

The funeral took place at St Peter's Church in Little Aston on Monday with the police force doing a guard of honour. For more information about the fund in her memory visit the [www.justgiving.com/remember/105725/Julie-Skidmore](http://www.justgiving.com/remember/105725/Julie-Skidmore) website.



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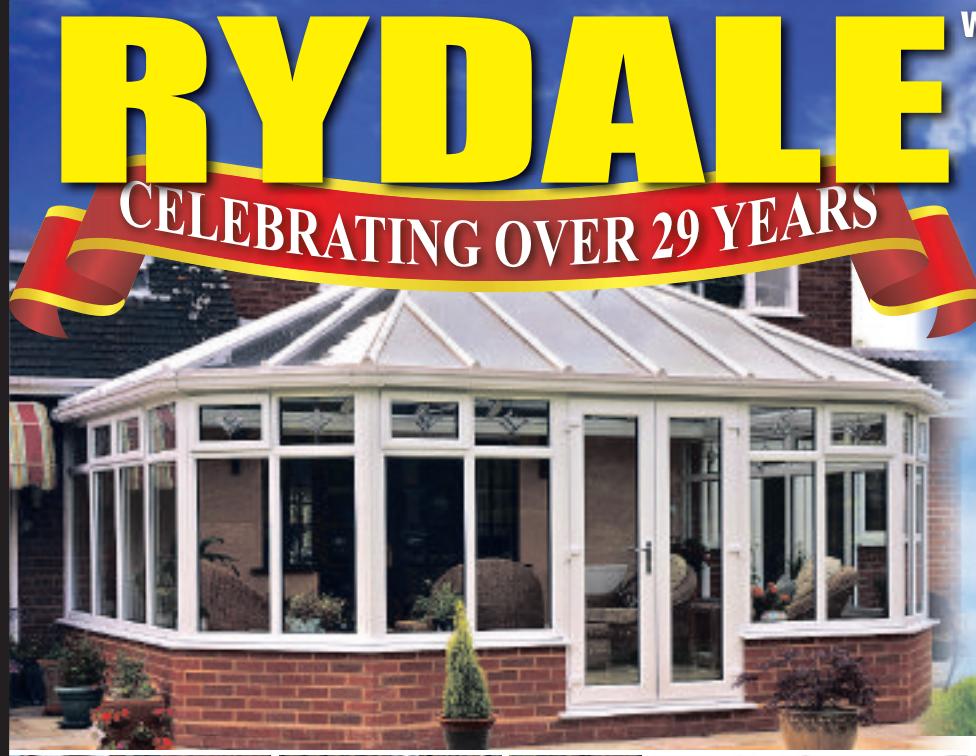
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## CLUB NEWS

### A recipient of Maundy Money visits

#### MYTIME OVER 50s

MYTIME Over Fifties February meeting with a talk by Roy Peacock entitled "The Queen's Jubilee Maundy Money".

Mr Peacock, a lay preacher of many years, was chosen by the Bishop of Dudley to represent the Diocese of Worcester at the Jubilee Maundy Service at York Minster in 2012.

This was a special service as the Queen had requested that every diocese in the country be represented instead of just the diocese in which the service was taking place. Some 86 men and 86 women were chosen to receive the Queen's Maundy Money and Mr Peacock was one of them.

During the Maundy Service after the reading of the first lesson, the Yeoman of the Guard appeared to assist Her Majesty with the giving of the Maundy Money to the first half of the recipients and again after the second lesson. Each recipient received two leather pouches of Maundy money, all newly minted for this occasion.

The Maundy Service is a continuation of a tradition since the 12th Century and has evolved into the presentation of the tokens of money for those men and women who have given service to their churches and communities.

At the meeting on March 26, in the Amblecote Room at Stourbridge Town Hall, the speaker George Hook's subject will be "Mother of Pearl".

Vice chairman Pamela Lane, committee member Elaine Lay, vice chairman of Compton Hospice Jeremy Hobbs, chairman Jane Emery and treasurer Gill Parsons

#### CAMEO LADIES

Hospice, to present a cheque for £1,500 for a chairbed for patients. Monies were raised from events and raffles during the year. Each member was given a gift to commence the celebrations for the group's 20 years as CAMEO, Come And Meet Each Other.

For further information on the club call 01902 330727 or 01902 844836.

# Sweet talking from the guest speaker



Vice chairman Pamela Lane, committee member Elaine Lay, vice chairman of Compton Hospice Jeremy Hobbs, chairman Jane Emery and treasurer Gill Parsons

Jane was delighted to then welcome Jeremy Hobbs, vice chairman of Compton

for further information on the club call 01902 330727 or 01902 844836.

## See how fortunes changed

#### SEDGELEY HISTORY

THE next meeting of the Sedgley Local History Society takes place tonight (Thursday March 13) at 7.30pm in St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street.

The speaker is Keith Hodgkins, chief chairman of Tipton Civic Society and passionate Black Country heritage campaigner. Keith's archive photographs

of Dudley show the town from the 1900s to the 1970s. In 1939 the small Worcestershire County Borough, surrounded by Staffordshire, covered 4,067 acres, only 200 more than Sedgley Urban District. However, the population of 62,100 was three times that of

Sedgley's. The evening is an ideal opportunity to view the changing fortunes of the self styled 'Capital of the Black Country', with its 11th century castle, medieval market place, Zoological Gardens (opened in 1937) and once vibrant shops.

The evening is sponsored by the Sedgley office of estate agents Taylors.

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## MP supports move by firm

BOSSES at a soft furnishings arriving in Dudley have been welcomed by an MP.

Miss Daisy Manufacturing moved to Netherton from Sandwell in January, taking over a derelict tool-making site. The company, which manufactures pillows, cushions, bedding and other soft furnishings, employs 25 and is hoping to expand.

Dudley South MP Chris Kelly said: "I was delighted to hear from founders Sean and Bev Smith that they have ambitious plans to increase employment on their new site as they win more orders from UK retailers. I have also written to the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills to highlight the good work of this company."

"It's great to see first-hand more evidence of the revival in UK manufacturing and the important role being played by Dudley and the Black Country."

# Woman dies weeks after fall fractured her kneecap

**A 74-YEAR-OLD woman died from a blood clot weeks after falling down a step at a hotel and fracturing her kneecap, an inquest heard.**

Rhona Homer was staying at the Oakleigh Guest House in Stourport on September 1, 2012 when she tumbled down a small step in a corridor, Dudley Coroner's Court was told.

The 74-year-old, of Park Lane, Halesowen, was taken to Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital by her family. A cast was put on her knee and she was given blood thinning medication as a precaution due to her age and restricted mobility.

She was discharged from hospital and was able to put weight on her leg with the aid of a frame. But the retired wages clerk collapsed suddenly at her home on September 23. Mrs Homer died at Russells Hall Hospital the same day.

Her family told the inquest the step she had fallen down was along an unlit corridor and was not clearly marked.

Senior Black Country coroner Mr Robin Balmain said he would be contacting the Health and Safety Executive to ensure action had been taken at the hotel.

Mrs Homer's daughter, Angela, said: "There was a lamp at one end of the corridor but it was

not lit. Nor was there a yellow strip marking it out."

She added: "She did not seem poorly even before her death. We had just eaten and were actually discussing what to put on the shopping list for that week. My mother left the room and we heard a bump. She had collapsed."

She carried out CPR on her mother until the paramedics arrived.

Mr Balmain said the medical cause of Mrs Homer's death had been a pulmonary embolism, a blood clot preventing her lungs from working properly. He recorded a conclusion of accidental death.

## Police raid cannabis farm



Pc Tracey Jones with some of the cannabis plants found in an industrial unit at Brierley Hill

POLICE seized 1,000 cannabis plants in a raid on a warehouse in Brierley Hill as the gang who had been growing it escaped over a 20ft wall into a canal.

As officers burst in through the front door, those who had been cultivating the crop on an industrial estate off Brettell Lane, fled out of the back.

### Chopsticks

In their rush, they left behind a laptop computer, their mobile phones and dropped their chopsticks, leaving a half-eaten bowl of rice and fish stew.

The alarm was raised after the landlord of the leased warehouse in Meeting Lane, on the Canalside trading estate, realised that his building was being used to grow cannabis.

There was a pungent smell and wooden frames had been erected, covered with

plastic sheeting to create a series of rooms where a hydroponics system had been set up, powered by an illegal spur into the electricity supply.

A 'nursery' room contained around 500 saplings and two other rooms each held around 250 larger plants, nearly ready to sold as cannabis.

Pc Matt Barnsley, of Stourbridge Police, said: "It's a big, professional set-up, with at least 15 rooms."

Pc Tracey Jones, also based in Stourbridge, said: "We searched every room but they must have heard sirens and left sharpish."

"The only way out would have been into the backyard and over the fence into the canal — so they must have got wet."

The plants will be destroyed by the police Cannabis Disposal Team and the value of the drugs will be assessed.

## £188k consultants' bill 'value for money'

THE £188,000 bill for consultants to help recruit police staff is 'value for money', according to the West Midlands police chief. The force is bringing in recruitment agents TMP to deal with applications for 450 jobs.

The move will bring to an end a five-year recruitment freeze. More than 15,000 people have expressed an interest in applying for the jobs and TMP will whittle that field down before candidates face an interview and checks.

Chief Constable Chris Sims said human resources staff had been lost over the previous five years as it made no sense to retain them while no recruitment was being carried out. He said the cost of consultants was better value than replacing staff on a permanent basis, as this recruitment drive was anticipated to be short-lived. He added: "This spending on external providers is absolutely value for money. It would cost us an awful lot more if we were not employing these consultants."

## New name and jobs

A PUB is undergoing a name change and a revamp creating up to 10 jobs.

The Old Bush in Kingswinford is closing while £325,000 is spent on transforming the pub, which will re-open towards the end of April as the Hinksford Arms.

New leaseholder restaurateur Brett Holden and owners Punch Taverns will provide new facilities and new jobs at the pub in Swindon Road. A recruitment day is being on Sunday. Contact Stourbridge Job Centre on 0845 604 3719.

## Lights to go off after midnight

A SENIOR Dudley councillor has defended his cash-strapped authority's plan to turn off street lights to save money.

The council is planning to turn off lights after midnight, potentially plunging areas into darkness, from 2016 onwards. They hope it makes little difference as most people are in bed between midnight and 5am.

Dudley transport boss Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, aid: "We have put forward a proposal to save £100,000 in 2016/17 by switching off some of the street lighting in quieter areas. We are facing significant reductions in funding from central government with unprecedented savings needing to be made locally. However, we are also investing heavily in new technology to help improve our street lighting. Rest assured, we will regularly monitor areas affected and people's safety will remain our top priority."

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## NEWS

# Big series of summer gigs announced

A SUMMER of free music concerts has been announced as venues in the West Midlands get set to host a series of gigs.

Hundreds of 'big gigs' will be held across England, under Government plans which announced this week. Communities across the Black Country are being given the chance to apply for grants to host an event.

Venues taking part last year included Baggeridge Country Park in Sedgley;

The concerts are free and add up to England's largest summer community music festival, according to Communities Minister Stephen Williams.

They aim to encourage people to listen to local talent and continue the community spirit conjured up by the

Olympics. The concerts will take place between July 11 and 13 with grants and support available for event organisers.

Funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government, last summer over 200,000 people attended 326 free Our Big Gig events.

To apply to host an event visit the [www.ourbiggig.co.uk](http://www.ourbiggig.co.uk) website.

# Council planning to borrow £2.5m to build car park

A MULTI-STORY car park with 250 spaces is set to be built in Dudley with the cash-strapped council planning to borrow the £2.5 million required for a 'much-needed' scheme.

Work on the car park in Tower Street could begin next year under the proposal which was expected to be approved by Dudley Council's cabinet committee last night.

Details of the scheme were first announced two years ago following repeated calls from traders for more parking in the heart of the town centre.

### Investment

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for transportation, defended the proposed loan, claiming the parking was a justified investment to support town centre regeneration.

The council needs to make £34m of cuts over the next three years with bosses warning around 40 jobs could be axed through compulsory redundancy.

Councillor Ahmed said: "We are investing because Dudley is doing well with its regeneration. We have the college expansion, supermarket proposals and the market redevelopment but car parking in the town centre could be better.

"This will provide much-needed spaces in the town centre and I am confident it will further increase footfall which will benefit town business.

### Maintenance

"The car park will be pay and display — we will need to charge to pay the loan off — but it will not result in an automatic increase in charges. Our charges are on par with other local authorities.

"We will continue to review the rates to ensure maintenance of the car parks can be paid for."

In a report to Wednesday's meeting, officers said the council would manage the scheme itself. Due to the levels of car park charges in the town centre, the report said the scheme was not 'attractive' to the private sector.

Ideas for the car park were first drawn up following pressure from businesses in the town centre.

## Minister's knife concern



Mark Babington, Inspector Lee Gordon, Theresa May and James Morris MP

THE Home Secretary was in Halesowen looking at passenger safety on the anniversary of the death of schoolgirl Christina Edkins, who was stabbed to death on a Birmingham bus.

Theresa May visited Halesowen, where the 16-year-old was a pupil at Leasowes School, and spoke with Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris and transport police at the town's bus station.

The visit occurred on the anniversary by coincidence as Mrs May had been planning to visit Conservative MP Mr Morris for some time. Christina was killed by paranoid schizophrenic Phillip Simelane.

Mr Morris has been campaigning for immediate prison sentences to be given to people caught carrying knives.

Mrs May did not make any promises but said the Government had been looking at the issue.

She said: "We have toughened up on the issue of knives.

"We see, sadly, too many young people losing their lives as a result of knife crime. But we have been looking at the presumption that someone should go to prison if there are aspects of knife crime."

Mrs May met with members of the Safer Travel Partnership.

# Long sentences have impact on city gun crime

CRIMINALS have been put off carrying guns by the combined 124 year jail sentences handed to six gang members who shot at the West Midlands Police helicopter and officers, chiefs have been told.

The jail terms imposed for six gang members involved in the disorder at the Barnton Arms pub during the 2011 riots have deterred criminals carrying firearms, according to the force.

### Questioned

Shots had been fired after the force helicopter had been deployed in response to a petrol bomb attack.

Deputy police and crime commissioner Councillor Yvonne Mosquito admitted she initially questioned the duration of those sentences but now accepted the impact they had.

She told the county's Strategic Policing and Crime Panel: "It's now not popular for young people to join gangs like the Burger Bar Crew the B5 gang or the Johnson Crew."

"When I saw those young Afro-Caribbean people in Op Barton I thought they received long sentences. Whilst at the time I felt strongly that those sentences were long, it has had an impact on the community."

It has a Board made up of six non-executive directors

# Opportunity to have a healthy influence locally

A HEALTH trust is on the look out for people to join its board.

The Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust needs two non-executive directors and one associate non-executive director.

The Trust employs more than 2,000 staff and provides mental health services in Sandwell and Wolverhampton, specialist health learning disability services in Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton, as well as community health-care services for children, young people and families in Dudley.

Applications should be submitted by March 28. Interviews will take place on May 1 and 2. Visit [www.bcft.nhs.uk](http://www.bcft.nhs.uk) for details.

## NEWS

# Peaky Blinders return to the Black Country

THE smog filled streets of 1920s Birmingham where only the toughest survive in a community beset by poverty, police violence, gang warfare, and loyalties are tested by Communist and Irish Republican causes.

Millions glued to their television sets each week are captivated by these evocative streets, homes and smoky pubs ruled by family bonds.

The critically acclaimed BBC drama Peaky Blinders is returning for a second series this autumn and filming has begun on the second series of the hit TV show, not in Birmingham but in the Black Country.

It tells the story of the Peaky Blinders, a gang known to deal with anyone who stands in their way with a debt swipe of razor blades protruding from their flat caps.

The Black Country Living Museum welcomed film crews this week for the second series running to use its atmospheric canal side locations to shoot scenes.

It is seen at a coup for the Black Country as producers say there are not enough suitable period locations in Birmingham to film there.

Those visiting the museum last week were able to catch a glimpse of the stars on set.

Many got close enough to capture the stars on their camera phones including leading man Cillian Murphy who plays the gang's chief Tommy Shelby.

Cameras were brought into the museum, off Tipton Road, Dudley, ready to set the scene for the production, although part of the site was closed off for the filming to take place.

While the show's characters are often seen sporting sharp suits or fine frocks, the streets in which they lived



It's a rare smile from gang boss Tommy Shelby, actor Cillian Murphy



Sophie Rundle who plays Tommy Shelby's strong-minded sister Ada

were far from glamorous. Producers were forced to use the museum for outdoor shots using the well known canal side area near the period village.

Already the terrace of shops near the canal bridge complete with cobble streets and ornate lamp posts have been the setting for other shows, including the award-winning Stephen Polkoff drama Dancing on the Edge featuring Oscar nominee Chiwetel Ejiofor. This month the BBC's daytime police drama WPC56 was screened featuring many of shops and sights from the 1930s Birmingham Street attraction at the museum.

But this time producers decided to focus their locations on the canal to the rear of the village surrounding the harsher looking foundry buildings. Dark shale pathways were littered with wooden boxes to create what appeared like a canal side depot.

Irish actor Cillian Murphy, who also starred in horror thriller 28 Days Later and as Batman's enemy The Scarecrow in two Hollywood blockbusters featuring the caped crusader, was on set to swagger before the cameras as the ambitious and dangerous crime boss Tommy, the drama's quietly spoken anti-hero.

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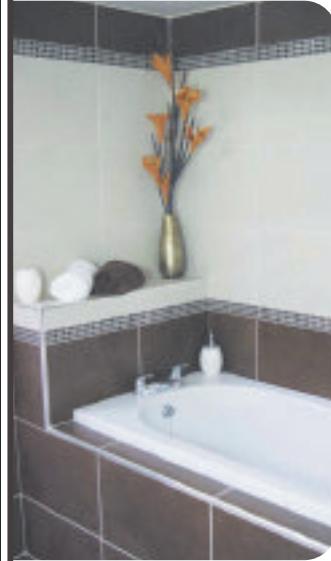
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FEMALE 65, attractive, much younger looking, slim but curvy 5ft 2ins, blonde, seeks younger man. Loves animals and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410393**

PAULINE attractive divorced female with no ties, employed with my own home, likes nights in/out, lots of TLC to give to the right person, call me for a chat, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395**

SARAH, married lady seeks discreet no strings fun with gent. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1949 Box 80291**

JEN attractive sensual petite blonde with OHAC seeks confident fit professional male to enjoy and share good times, if that's your pls get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410494**

ARE you dark or bald, with hairy chest, well built, educated, verbal, articulate dom or sub, broadminded and ready to be put in your place? Curious to find out more? Call me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410637**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box 36609**

29YR old black beautiful busty tall loving very sensual lady, likes football, making friends, seeking genuine white male for enjoyable loving relationship. Pls no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410577**

YOUNG early 40's female, GSOH, kind, caring, considerate, seeks male for friendship, possible romance. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410847**

ADVENTUROUS attractive lady seeks no strings casual times with discreet gent. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box 409991**

CAROL 38 attractive romantic not looking for fairy tales just happy endings, seeking lovely male to put the sparkle back into my life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410721**

CLAIRE voluptuous tall feminine attractive lady who loves good company, fine wine/food, travel, WLTM tall professional for romance dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410627**

SAM, 35yrs, own business, sexy, loves dressing up and married, seeks discreet man for casual meetings. Can travel anywhere. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box 408297**

LORRAINE 5ft 9ins, slim, 57, nurse, looking for someone to look after me. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410543**

MICHELLE 37, looking for laughter fun and romance with the right guy, if you could be him and have nothing to loose call me for a chat. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410415**

TAYLOR 21 black beautiful classy intelligent, loves to have lots of fun and enjoy life to the full, seeking mature guy to make me happy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409911**

WENDY 50, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, likes music, meals out, seeks white male, 45-55 with similar interests and GSOH for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410499**

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73YR old Hereford lady, GSOH, young at heart, many interests, seeks caring, genuine gent of similar age for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410331**

NICKY bubbly curly fun blonde, varied interests, enjoys meals out, holidays, seeking NS male with GSOH for possible ltr. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410479**

KAREN 32 a hardworking petite blonde, enjoys nights out, music, etc, WLTM for more than just friendship with similar chilled, kind, easy going guy. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410461**

LIZ 5ft 7ins, attractive, outgoing, likes walks, dogs, cooking, seeks male for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410395**

ZOE 25 long haired sensual female, very naughty, broadminded and open, looking for similar fun guy for uncomplicated adult meets. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409719**

JANE attractive, feminine open-minded mature female genuinely looking for adult fun. No time wasters please. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409715**

JILL 50, attractive, 5ft, blonde, own home, no ties, likes films, reading, travel, music, good social circle, seeking that someone special. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895**

ELAINE attractive 39yr old blonde single mum seeking respectful male/dad with similar interests for adult friendship, hopefully leading to love. Looks unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410117**

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, 56, enjoys country walks, meals out, seeks professional gent with GSOH to enjoy the good things in life. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409895**

DONNA 27yrs blue eyed blonde with cute dimpled smile, loves socialising but looking for that special someone with GSOH to cuddle up with, enjoy fun/good times. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409733**

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SHROPSHIRE male, 49yrs caring, looking for single lady for relationship 40/50. **Tel Only Mailbox Box No: 4333566**

GOD looking tanned guy blue eyes, good physique, 45, looking for an attractive like-minded slim female 19-40. **Tel Only Mailbox Box No: 4320125**

66YR old male enjoys country walks, pubs, and cycling seeks similar minded lady to share life, 60ish. **Tel Only Mailbox Box No: 4330594**

STEVE 63, tall, fit, energetic, N/S, seeks lady, 55-60 for friendship and who knows. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410703**

SEAN 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845**

KEV 53, Stoke, seeking female for fun, romance, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410997**

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267**

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PAUL 62, seeks attractive Wolverhampton lady for discreet daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410799**

ATTRACTIVE tall, dark, professional male, 50, seeks female, 40 plus for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410375**

SLIM attractive man, tired of lonely nights, seeks genuine lady for friendship and evenings out. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410261**

JEFF 35, GSOH, likes cinema, swimming, ice skating, seeks special female with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410737**

CHRIS 32, 5ft 10ins, brown hair, blue eyes, open minded, looking for female for discreet no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410643**

BROADMINDED professional, tall, dark male, easy going, GSOH, seeking female with GSOH for fun, friendship and relationship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410703**

PAUL 68, 5ft 7ins, fit, genuine, enjoys most things, likes a laugh, seeking similar female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410655**

JOSEPH attractive Asian male, seeking attractive, genuine female, 38-50 for friendship and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410267**

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## REVIEWS

# Galileo driven by desire for knowledge

**A Life of Galileo, Birmingham Rep**  
McDiarmid gives a remarkable performance as the ageing Renaissance scientist, Galileo Galilei, driven by a restless desire for knowledge in Mark Ravenhill's translation of a Bertolt Brecht play.

But I felt tension was lacking in the story of the 17th century Florentine scientist's clash with the Roman Catholic Church, which insisted on suppressing his proof that the Earth orbits the Sun, rather than vice versa.

Rep artistic director Roxanna Silbert's production, first staged by the RSC at Stratford, crackles with energy and blurs the lines between now and then with a mix of modern and period costume.

McDiarmid's Galileo is so vain and addicted to earthly pleasures that, unlike his students, I didn't feel surprise that he failed to resist the church's demand that he recant. All the inquisition had to do was show him the instruments of potential torture.

Maybe it was not the honourable thing but I think most modern audiences would agree with his sensible play to save his skin and then carry on his research in secrecy.

The old man's pragmatic approach is summed up in the play's best exchange. When his disappointed student says 'unhappy the land that has no heroes', the wise scientist replies 'no, unhappy the land where heroes are needed.'

LEON BURAKOWSKI

# Fairport fairly dull

## Fairport Convention

### Town Hall, Birmingham

THERE is no real argument with the view Fairport Convention are folk royalty. There music was seminal, groundbreaking and the band's albums and line-ups have reached iconic status. So it's dangerous ground to attempt to point out the emperor's new clothes but their concert in the Second City was one of two halves. The first was pretty flat and lacklustre and the second less so.

Their playing was faultless because they have been doing tracks such as 'opener Jewel in the Crown' for decades.

They treated the audience at a two thirds full town hall to tracks such as 'I'm Already There' from their *Over The Next Hill* album. They pulled out a new one called *Home* which was a ballad sung by founder member Simon Nicol. Individually every song was played expertly but as a whole there was something missing, there was no spark no real enthusiasm in what was, ultimately, a fairly run of the mill show.

DANNY FARRAGHER

**Jasper joins Grand's star-studded season**

JASPER Carrott, Jane McDonald and Derren Brown are among stars lined-up for later this year at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

The veteran Birmingham comic will appear at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre on September 16 with his star-studded comedy show *Stand up and Rock*.

Singer and former Loose Women panelist Jane McDonald will follow up her sell-out 2011 UK tour with her one-woman concert show, *Cannock Prince of Wales* on June 5.

Other productions include *Happy Days The Musical* starring former Sugababe Heidi Range from June 9 to 14, Marc Bolan musical *Twentyfifth Century Boy* from June 30 to July 5 and *Dirty Dancing* between September 23 and October 11.

Call 01902 429212 or visit [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)

ALEX ROSS

singer is at the Grand on September 17.

Illusionist Derren Brown is also heading back to the Lichfield Street theatre with his new stage show *Infamous*, from May 5 to 10.

Other productions include *Happy Days The Musical* starring former Sugababe Heidi Range from June 9 to 14, Marc Bolan musical *Twentyfifth Century Boy* from June 30 to July 5 and *Dirty Dancing* between September 23 and October 11.

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DANNY FARRAGHER

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£9.99 sq.mtr**

**Stunning  
Solid Oak Flooring  
from just  
£18.99 sq.mtr**

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## Longleat Safari and Adventure Park

Two days departing June 13 and October 11



PRICE FROM **£119\***

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Day ticket to Longleat Safari and Adventure Park
- Visit to Bath
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

\*Child price from £109 - conditions apply

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## London Weekend Break

Two days departing May 10 and August 2



PRICE FROM **£149.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and English breakfast at the four-star Radisson Blu Edwardian, Grafton hotel
- Lots of free time in London
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Short breaks (ABTA Y5914)

## Chelsea Flower Show and Windsor

Two days departing May 23



PRICE FROM **£179.95**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight half-board accommodation
- Admission to the Chelsea Flower Show
- Visit to Windsor
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

## Haworth 1940's Weekend

Two days departing May 17

## André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra in London

Two days departing December 19 and 20



PRICE FROM **£185**

- Return coach travel
- Return transfers between the hotel and Wembley Arena
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation at a greater London hotel
- Seated ticket to see André Rieu and the Johann Strauss Orchestra at Wembley Arena (upgrades offered)
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## Afternoon Tea at The Ritz

Two days departing June 15, August 10



PRICE FROM **£199**

- Return coach travel
- Overnight bed and breakfast accommodation
- Afternoon tea at The Ritz
- Tour manager escort to The Ritz
- Visit to Fortnum & Mason and Harrods
- Glass of Champagne at the Champagne Bar, St Pancras
- Free time in London
- Services of a tour driver
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Diamond Holidays (ABTA W0552)

## Emmerdale and the Best of Yorkshire

Three days departing May 9, June 27, September 19



PRICE FROM **£139**

- Return coach travel
- Two nights half-board accommodation
- Tours of Emmerdale country, Last of the Summer Wine country and the Yorkshire Dales
- Visit to York
- Services of a tour manager
- Single rooms subject to availability - supplement applies

Organised by Newmarket Promotions (ABTA V787X)

## London Theatre by coach

Two days selected weekend departure dates



**PRICE FROM £139.95**

London is the natural home of theatre and the musical is King in the capital's world-famous West End. British musicals that prove a runaway success here often go on to triumph on Broadway and around the globe.

The winning combination of engaging writing, captivating stage design and commanding performance has enabled London theatres to achieve box office smashes time and time again. And it's the songs that make people return to the capital a number of times and some of the most well-known tunes have become part of the national canvas.

There are two options travelling by coach from which to choose, Saturday Night Theatre or Dine and Dance.

The Saturday Night Theatre break, from £139.95, includes a ticket for the evening show whereas the Dine and Dance option starts from £149.95, and includes an evening meal with an after-dinner disco. The ticket for this break is for the matinee performance.

Both trips include return coach travel, a choice of theatre ticket from an extensive list of shows, overnight bed and breakfast accommodation in an outer-London four-star hotel, along with some free time in the capital for shopping or sightseeing.

Pick-ups offered are Dudley, Shrewsbury, Telford, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

\*The from price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure/web page for details.

Single room supplements apply.

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

## Royal Ascot on Ladies Day

Day trip departing June 19



**PRICE FROM £89.95**

The Royal procession starts each day's action at around 2pm followed by top class thoroughbreds and world-famous jockeys competing in six races. One of the most celebrated events is the legendary Gold Cup, a battle of stamina and determination over two miles and four furlongs with one of the most sought after prizes in flat racing.

A two-day trip to Ladies day at Royal Ascot is offered by Diamond Holidays departing on June 18. This is priced from £139 per person and includes return coach travel, entrance to the Silver Ring, overnight half-board accommodation and a visit to Windsor.



**PRICE FROM £89.95**

Royal Ascot is a national institution and the premier sporting and social event in the summer calendar.

Although the whole week of Royal Ascot is a fashion show like no other it's Thursday when the designer creations and millinery masterpieces are at their best and the elegance of the ladies' outfits is matched only by the flair of their hats.

This day trip starts off with a brunch-time full English breakfast and a glass of sparkling wine at a hotel en route to the racecourse, arriving in good time to enjoy the pre-race atmosphere and facilities.

A ticket is included for the Silver Ring enclosure where there are lots of bars, food outlets, big screen TV's, live musical entertainment, seating, lawned areas and lots of places to put a bet on (an upgrade to a Grandstand admission ticket is offered for a £45 supplement).

### INFO

- Return coach travel
- Brunch-time full English breakfast with a glass of sparkling wine
- Admission to the Silver Ring enclosure (upgrade offered)
- Services of a coach driver/tour representative

Organised by Omega Events (ABTA Y590X)

# Door is always open so you can see how school operates

STAFF at Crestwood School, Kingswinford know choosing the right secondary school is such an important decision for Year 6 students, parents and carers, and endeavours to support the making of that choice and the subsequent transition as straightforward as possible.

It encourages prospective students, parents and carers to visit at a time convenient to them. The door is always open.

Crestwood prides itself on a strong ethos and values which ensure all pupils have the opportunity to attain their potential in an open, supportive and caring environment.

Its holistic approach to learning and exemplary supportive pastoral care are second to none.

Rest assured, by going to Crestwood you are joining a good school. Its ultimate aim is to be outstanding in all areas, never losing sight of the fact students are at the heart of everything.

A relentless drive for success and high expectations were recently recognised nationally when Crestwood was placed in the top 50 of most improved secondary schools in the country.

The progress students make from arrival at Crestwood to when they leave, known as 'value added', is consistently better than any other local secondary schools in both Dudley and surrounding boroughs. This 'value added' placed it in the top 20 per cent of schools in England and Wales in both 2012 and 2013.

Exam results speak for themselves. For the past four years GCSE results have im-



Crestwood prides itself on a strong ethos and values



GCSE results have been improving each year



Students have access to various outdoor activities

proved year-on-year, with 68 per cent of year 11 in 2013 leaving Crestwood with at least five A\* to C grades including English and Maths. Each one of the 168 Year 11 students last year had an average points score of 580, which equates to 14-15 'C' grades or 10 'A' grades.

Crestwood has excellent links with local colleges and enterprises. Annual trips to Europe and beyond ensure there are plenty of opportunities for the learning, sporting and cultural experiences of students to go way beyond the classroom.

New Year 7 students, once final choices

are made and confirmed, will be visited at primary school by a member of the senior leadership team or the head of Year 7.

After the important SATs, further visits are made so that all relevant and supporting information is successfully passed between primary schools and Crestwood.

The school's transition programme culminates in July, when parents/carers and students meet their new tutors and other key staff and then spend the following day at Crestwood getting to know their peers and tutors through a variety of fun team-building activities.

Personalised transition sessions are often arranged and, in fact, encouraged for more vulnerable students. Staff are delighted this year, for the first time, Crestwood will be offering a week-long summer school to all new Year 7 students.

In the summer term Crestwood will once again be hosting a summer showcase. This is an opportunity for Year 4 and Year 5 students to see the school in action prior to open days and evenings in the autumn term. If you would like to see the school in action or have further questions, contact Mrs Sutton, deputy headteacher on 01384 816535.



## Crestwood School

### NOW IN TOP 50

MOST IMPROVED SCHOOLS NATIONALLY!

### Fourth Consecutive Year of Improvement!

The transition from primary to secondary school is a major event for both students and parents. We pride ourselves on making this a smooth transition. At Crestwood everyone is looked after and made to feel welcome.

If you are interested in what we can offer your child, call in and speak to us at any time.

What our parents think!

"so happy with this school on every level"

Super school!!

"We are so happy with the school and staff"

"I am very happy with my child's progress"

We are the small school with **BIG** aspirations



91% 5A\*-C  
68% 5A\*-C  
including  
English &  
Maths  
(GCSE  
2013)

# What's On!

## Nominated folk singer headlines

A WOLVERHAMPTON folk club is welcoming a singer and accordion player who has been nominated for Radio 2 Folk Awards no less than five times.

Jim Causley from Devon will be playing at Newhampton Folk Club, held in the upper room of the Newhampton pub, Riches Street, Whitmore Reans on Saturday. Causley has recorded with some of the biggest names in the folk world including Martin Carthy, Show of Hands and John McCusker.

Supporting him will be Wolverhampton singer-songwriter Daniel Kirk who recently released his first album and is making a name for himself on the folk circuit. The show starts at 8.30pm, tickets are £8 in advance or £10 on the door.

## Irish double bill on St Patrick's Day

IRISH stars team up on St Patrick's Day at Birmingham Symphony Hall as Monday's concert features Clannad and Mary Black. That's the same day that Janis Ian joins forces with fellow US singer-songwriter Tom Paxton, at Birmingham Town Hall.

Maximo Park are at Digbeth's Institute tomorrow and on Saturday Bad Manners bring ska mayhem to Bilston's Robin 2. Chicago's Fall Out Boy rock the NIA on Sunday.

Ex-Rainbow frontman Graham Bonnett is at the Robin 2 on Monday and LA metal outfit Love/Hate play The Slade Rooms, Wolverhampton, on Wednesday.

# Fab Four fans get ready for ultimate Beatles jukebox show

**BEATLES** show Let It Be will be taking fans of the Fab Four on a magical mystery tour through 40 of the band's greatest hits.

The West End hit comes to Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre from Monday to Saturday, charting the rise of John, Paul, George and Ringo from the Cavern days in Liverpool, through Beatlemania to their final studio masterpieces, as a concert.

by Leon Burakowski

Paul Bunyan, on Tuesday. Then, on March 20 and 21, the ETO present their collaboration with the people of Wolverhampton in new community opera Zeppelin Dreams.

Wolverhampton Musical Comedy Company are hoping they are the ones that you want when they stage rock 'n' roll musical Grease at Wolverhampton Grand until Saturday.

The 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War is marked by Birmingham Rep with a stage play based on Sebastian Faulks' acclaimed novel Birdsong, from Monday to Saturday in the main House. Meanwhile, the Rep Studio offers the last chances to catch Never Try This At Home, a play inspired by such anarchic kids' TV as Tiswas, before the final performance on Saturday night.

English Touring Opera present Mozart's The Magic Flute at the Grand on Monday and Benjamin Britten collaboration with WH Auden, the rarely seen American frontier tale



Cheers to our success – Lesley Joseph stars alongside Matt Slack in Hot Flush

## Lesley is feeling the heat

LESLEY Joseph – aka Doreen from Birds of a Feather – is back in the West Midlands for her latest production, Hot Flush, described as a Sex And The City with HRT and songs.

The show focuses on the lives of four friends, who share tears and laughter, and co-stars funnyman Matt Slack who, like Lesley, is a veteran of Birmingham Hippodrome pantomimes. Hot Stuff is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre tonight then at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on March 22.

Lesley said: "When the Vagina Monologues became a hit in the theatre, it changed the game. It created a genre that hadn't been seen before. Suddenly, lots of girls, of all ages, thought: 'OMG, let's go and have a pizza, a glass of wine and a really good night out at the theatre'. Then Hot Flush came along and took it to another level. It's very funny and very near the knuckle."

## Funny business at major venues

SOME of the nation's top comics are heading our way. Jack Whitehall jumps in at the deep end performing 'in the round' at mega-venue The NIA tonight. But Russell Howard aims even higher with two dates at the LG Arena on March 21 and 22.

Laughs and gasps are likely in equal measure when notorious shock troupe The Circus of Horrors bring their London After Midnight show to the New Alexandra Theatre on Saturday.

Hal Cruttenden's Tough Luvvie show is at The Slade Rooms in Wolverhampton on March 20.

Sharp-tongued Sarah Millican will rule the roost with her Home Bird tour at the city's Symphony Hall for three consecutive nights from March 22.

## Last chance to see popular duo

WOLVERHAMPTON welcomes founder members of the hugely popular folk band Bellowhead on what will be their last tour as a duo.

John Spiers and Jon Boden will be at the city's Wulfrun Hall on Tuesday, March 18.

The duo will be supported by young Stourbridge blues/acoustic singer Sunjay Brayne, who is also due to play at the Shrewsbury Folk Festival in August.

Doors open at 7pm and tickets are £16.50, which includes a 10 per cent booking fee that applies however you buy your tickets.

wow!

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MONDAYS  
24, 31 Mar

5 days £179.95

### 4 DAY TOURS FRI 21 Mar

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Weston-super-Mare £99.95  
Pontins, Brean Sands £99.95  
Sand Bay 1960's Cabaret Special NOW £129.95

### 5 DAY TOURS MON 24 Mar

Blackpool £119.95  
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Folkestone & Eurotunnel to Bruges £129.95  
Isle of Wight £129.95  
Bournemouth £129.95  
Brighton 99p BAR SPECIAL!!! £129.95  
Eastbourne £129.95  
Southport, Scarisbrick Hotel £129.95  
Pontins, Southport £129.95  
Sand Bay & Bath £129.95

### 4 DAY TOURS FRI 28 Mar

Torquay £99.95  
Folkestone & Eurotunnel to Bruges £119.95  
Bournemouth £119.95  
Eastbourne £119.95  
Weston-s-Mare £119.95  
Pontins Brean Sands £119.95

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5 DAYS NOW £149.95  
NO OVERNIGHT  
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## What's On!

Listings supplied by Press Association

## SATURDAY'S TV 15.03.14

## CHOICE



Matthew Rhys

## The Americans

## ITV, 9.20pm

The mid-1980s 'Reds Under the Bed' saga returns for a new run, and Russian spy Elizabeth (Keri Russell) has recovered from her injuries sustained on the last mission. Getting home in time for her son Henry's birthday party, she and Philip (Matthew Rhys) attempt to restore the façade of their all-American lifestyle. While Henry is thrilled to have his mum back (she being "caring for a sick aunt"), daughter Paige is not so easily fooled. Her growing concerns about her parents' unusual activities have continued to escalate while the matriarch was away.

## BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast:** **10.00** Saturday Live. **11.30** Football Focus. **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. Italy v England (Kick-off 12.30pm). **2.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Ireland (Kick-off 2.45pm). **4.35** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Ireland (Kick-off 5.00pm). **7.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

**7.15 The Voice UK:** Emma Willis and the judges assess the first knockout round, in which the coaches reduce their teams of seven down to the three acts that will perform in the live shows. Continues tomorrow.

**8.35 The National Lottery Who Wins:** Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which strangers pair up to win money, including the National Lottery draws. Last in the series.

**9.25 Casualty:** Iain's troubled former Army mate Kenny takes him and Big Mac hostage, a woman takes a fall after competing in a not-a-party and Fletcher's wife Natalie goes into labour.

**10.15 BBC News:** Weather.

**10.30 Match of the Day:** Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League game, which included Hull City v Manchester City at the KC Stadium and Aston Villa v Chelsea at Villa Park; National Lottery Update.

**12.05 The Football League Show:** Match of the Day highlights and all the goals from the latest fixtures in the Championship, League One and League Two, including Nottingham Forest v Doncaster Rovers. **1.25** Weatherview. **1.30** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.10 Sport Relief's Top Dog:** (R) **6.40 Sport Relief's Top Dog:** (R) **7.10 Sport Relief's Top Dog:** (R) **7.40 Sport Relief's Top Dog:** (R) **8.10 Sport Relief's Top Dog:** (R) **8.40 Life on Earth:** (R) **9.35 Life on Earth:** (R) **10.30 Frenchman's Mine in Britain:** (R) **11.00 Great British Railway Journeys:** (R) **11.30 James Martin: Home Comforts:** (R) **12.15 Mary Berry Cooks:** (R) **12.45 Talking Pictures:** (R) **1.35 Film:** Rope. (1948) **2.55** Football: An Evening Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **4.25** Final Score. **5.30 Llanelli House Restored.**

**6.30 Flot It!** People are invited to try to make money by selling their unwanted collection. (R) **7.30 Dad's Army:** Captain Mainwaring devises a cunning new way of foiling Hitler's invasion plans – but it results in the middle of a minefield. (R) **8.00 The Perfect Morecambe & Wise:** Eric and Ernie give their turn on Starsky & Hutch, have a run-in with Henry Cooper and persuade Cilla Black to join them in a musical number. Featuring a song by Small Faces.

**8.30 Viking Art: A Culture Show Special:** Andrew Graham-Dixon explores the Vikings: Life and Legend exhibition at the British Museum, learning how the Norsemen forged a network connecting their culture over four continents. **9.30 QI:** With Jack Dee. (R) **10.00 Stewart Lee's Comedy Vehicle.** **10.30 Page Eight:** (R) **12.10 Film:** Unrelated. (2007) **1.50** Film: Battle Beyond the Stars. (1980) **3.30** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00 CITV:** Dino Dan. **6.10 Dino Dan:** (R) **6.25 Matt Hatter Chronicles:** (R) **6.45 Canimals:** (R) **6.55 Canimals:** (R) **7.00 Canimals:** (R) **7.10 Om Nom Stories:** (R) **7.15 Om Nom Stories:** (R) **7.20 Sooty, Sweep & Sweepie:** (R) **9.25 ITV News:** **9.30 Dinner Date:** (R) **10.25 Murder, She Wrote:** (R) **11.25 ITV News:** Weather. **11.35 The Crocodile Hunter Diaries:** (R) **12.05 The Incredibles:** (R) **12.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show:** (R) **1.30 Midsomer Murders:** (R) **3.25 Film:** Zookeeper. (2011) **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather. **6.40** CITV News: Weather.

**6.00 You've Been Framed!** (R) **6.00 Same Moment:** Harry Hill counts down through 100 memorable videos sent in by viewers, featuring giddy grandparents, cheeky teenagers and absent-minded mistakes from the middle-aged.

**7.00 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway:** The Geordie duo turn the tables on Holly Willoughby and Sienna Miller. Surprise and the cast of The Commitments take part in a St Patrick's Day-themed End of the Show Show.

**8.20 The Cube:** A windsurfing competition and a dress tackle a series of tough challenges, from agility tests to skills trials, aiming to win a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts.

**9.20 The Americans:** New series. **9.30 Film:** The Return. (2006) Thriller, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar.

**10.15 Film:** Weather. **10.30 Film:** The Return. (2006) Thriller, starring Sarah Michelle Gellar.

**12.00 Jackpot247:** **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **11.05 Film:** The Rum Diary. (2011) Premiere. A New York journalist relocates to Puerto Rico in the 1960s, where he is drawn into the schemes of a corrupt bus company. Comedy drama, with Johnny Depp and Aaron Eckhart.

**1.20 The Good Wife:** (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** Trans World Sport. **5.05** Mobil 1. **5.30** Live Paralympic Winter Games.

## CHANNEL 4

**11.00** Live Paralympic Winter Games. Further coverage of the eighth day of events in Russia. **1.30** Channel 4 Racing. **4.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.35** Paralympic Winter Games Highlights. **7.00** Paralympic Winter Games. Jonathan Edwards and Ade Adepitan look back at the eighth day of events in Russia, which included biathlon, cross-country skiing, sledge hockey and wheelchair curling.

**7.05 Marvel's Agents of SHIELD:** As the agents organise a full-scale hunt for the missing lead, Coulson uncovers vital information about the mystery of his death – but Centipede is baying for blood. (R) **8.00 Hospital:** After one of the hospital's staff is murdered, the victim's colleagues decide to take matters into their own hands, while Ellen finds someone who might be a suitable donor for her. (R) **9.00 Film:** Little Miss Sunshine. (2001) A failed writer acquires a drug that increases his brain power, but his new abilities attract dangerous attention. Set in California, with Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro.

**11.05 Film:** The Rum Diary. (2011) Premiere. A New York journalist relocates to Puerto Rico in the 1960s, where he is drawn into the schemes of a corrupt bus company. Comedy drama, with Johnny Depp and Aaron Eckhart.

**1.20 The Good Wife:** (R) **2.05** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.10** Trans World Sport. **5.05** Mobil 1. **5.30** Live Paralympic Winter Games.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake!** **10.00 Access:** **10.15 Police 5:** (R) **10.45** It Takes a Thief to Catch a Thief. (R) **11.45** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away! (R) **12.45** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.45** Hotel Royal. (2001) Time travel romances comedy, with Jack Palance and Meg Ryan. (R) **6.35 Film:** Columbo: Publish or Perish. Prescriptive Columbo. (1983) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **5.25 Film:** Columbo: Prescriptive Columbo. (1983) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **7.05 NCIS:** The unit is tipped off about terrorist activity, but two agents are murdered during the ensuing investigation – and Paula Cassidy holds herself responsible for the tragedy. (R) **8.00 NCIS:** McGee is shocked to discover that a double murder appears to have been inspired by his latest novel – and realises one of his colleagues could become the killer's third target. (R) **9.00 NCIS:** Jenny Shepard tries to solve the murder of an underworld source who was prepared to give information on the activities of arms dealer La Grenouille. Starring Lauren Holly. (R) **9.55 5 News Weekend:** **10.00 Live Boxing:** Coverage of the first two quarter-finals in the Middleweight boxing final from the Rivermead Leisure Centre in Reading, where the light heavyweight tournament begins.

**12.00 SuperCasino:** **3.10** Benidorm. **4.00** Who Do You Think You Are? (A) **4.25** Make It Big. **4.50** The Friday Show. (R) **5.00** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.10** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.20** Angels of Jarm. (R) **5.30** The Funky Valley Show. (R) **5.40** Hana's Helpline. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three:** **6.00** CITV: TV Mistakes **7.30** Doctor Who **8.20** Top Gear. **8.30** Special **9.20** Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001) **10.55** Family Guy **BBC Four:** **7.00** Great Barrier Reef **8.00** Shipwrecks: Britain's Sunken History **9.00** Salamander **10.30** Motown at the BBC **11.30** Smoke Robinson Live in Hyde Park **ITV2:** **2.40** Film: Flipped (1996) **4.40** Britain's Got More Talent: Funniest Moments Ever! **LOL Moments 5.40** Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed (2010) **7.35 Film:** **8.00** Doctor Who & Rose (2005) **9.00** Celebrities: 10.50 **Crazy 9.00** Beaches **11.20** Film: 40 Days and 40 Nights (2002) **ITV3:** **3.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **4.55** Inspector Morse **7.00** Rosemary & Thyme **8.00** Doc Martin **9.00** Rhymeavour **11.00** A Touch of Frost **ITV4:** **3.45** Film: The War Wagon (1967) **5.50 Film:** Field of Dreams (1989) **8.00** Hornblower. Naval drama, starring Tom Hulce. **10.00 Film:** The Day of the Jackal (1973) **E4:** **2.00** Rude (ish) Tube **5.00** 2 Broke Girls **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** The Tomorrow People **9.00** Film: Aliens (1986) **Film4:** **2.55** Dear John (2010) **5.00** Chalet Girl (2011) **7.00** (500) Days of Summer **8.00** The Host (2010) **9.00** Anna Karenina (2012) **10.00** A Teenage girl lies about her non-existent sexual history, and uses the resulting rumours to become the talk of the school. Teen comedy, with Emma Stone and Penn Badgley. **10.50** Silent House (2011)

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## Education

## Commercial Feature



Recounting memories – Fred Austin MBE with students from the Pedmore Technology College

## VIPs bringing alive learning

AT Pedmore Technology College and Community School in Stourbridge, pupils are regularly inspired by VIP guests who help to bring their curriculum subjects to life.

Last month, Fred Austin MBE and father of Dudley North MP Ian Austin, told pupils how he narrowly escaped the clutches of the Nazis, having to leave behind his mother and two older sisters Ilse and Trudeau in Czechoslovakia.

They died together in a gas chamber at the Treblinka extermination camp in

Poland on October 5, 1942. Fred captivated pupils when recounting his years of growing up in England, and how he later went on to marry, adopt four children, become a teacher and eventually a headmaster at Dudley Grammar School where he retired in 1985.

Last month, Stourbridge MP Margaret James visited Year 11 GCSE citizenship pupils who are busy preparing and researching their campaigns as part of their GCSE programme of study.

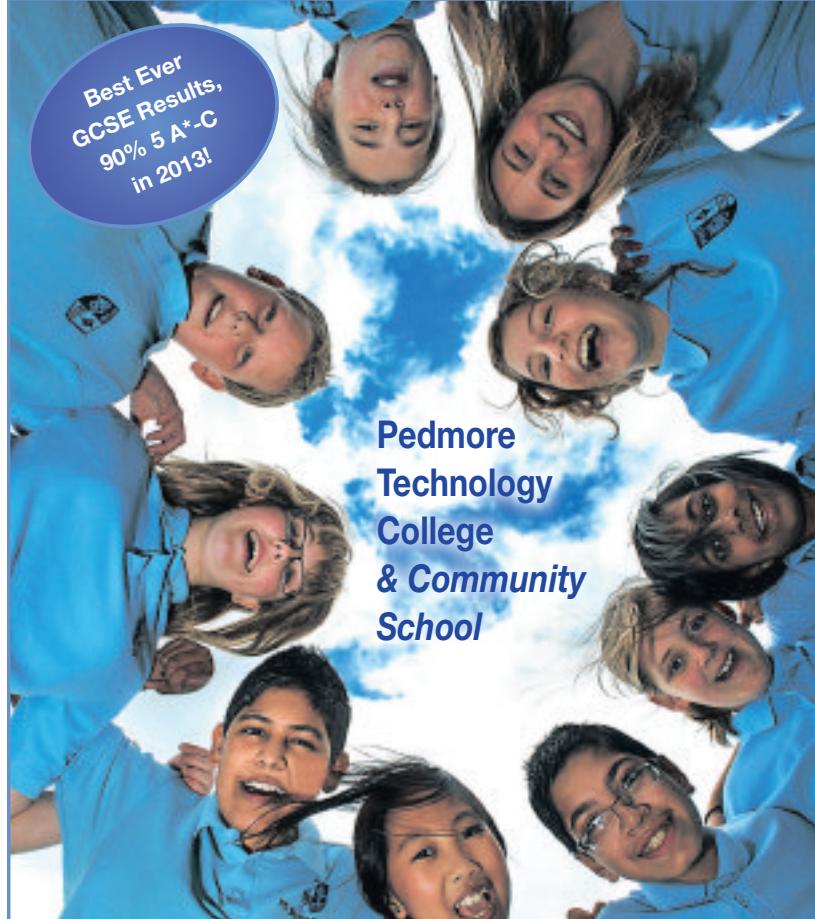
Campaigns included making Pedmore Technology College the first fair trade school in the area, a campaign for a summertime uniform and a group who are fighting to lower car

insurance costs for young people. The MP discussed the group's campaigns with them and how they could move forward to gain support and publicity for their causes.

She was so impressed with the pupil's commitment and professionalism that she has invited a Year 11 female citizenship pupil to visit Parliament and Downing Street as part of International Women's Day to discover how Parliament operates in detail.

To find out more about Pedmore Technology College and Community School and any upcoming events visit the website at [www.pedmoretc.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.pedmoretc.dudley.sch.uk) or ring 01384 816660.

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## What's On!

### SUNDAY'S TV 16.03.14

#### CHOICE



Dermot O'Leary

#### Live from Space: Lap of the Planet

#### Channel 4, 7.30pm

Forget Around the World in 80 Days – this pioneering programme aims to take us around the globe in just 90 minutes. That's because a lot of it is coming live from the International Space Station, which over the course of the two-hour broadcast will be orbiting 250 miles above the Earth at speeds of up to 17,500 miles-per-hour. And when they're not sharing their incredible views of our planet, two of the ISS's English-speaking astronauts, Rick Mastracchio and Koichi Wakata will be interacting with the Earth-bound public.

#### BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.25** Match of the Day. (R) **8.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics. **12.15** MOTD2 Extra. **1.00** BBC News: Weather. **1.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.00** The Great British Grand Prix Highlights. **4.00** Deadly 60 on a Mission: Pole to Pole. **4.35** Lifeline. **4.45** Regional Programme. **5.15** Songs of Praise. **5.50** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.15** **Blindings**. Connie tries to help a blind man to have in the hope that Clarence might succeed him as Lord Lieutenant of Shropshire. But her chances look slim when Beach starts acting oddly. **6.45** **Countryfile**. Reporters from Countryfile are bringing in a village food bank has been set up to help animals evacuated in the floods and a visit to a factory using horse hair to make textiles. **7.00** **Living Weather for the Week Ahead**. **7.45** **The Voice UK**. The line-up for the live shows is revealed as Kylie Minogue, Tom Jones, Will.i.am and Ricky Wilson. The seven acts will each take on three others, each taking through to the semi-finals. **9.00** **The Musketeers**. The King calls a contest to settle the rivalry between the Musketeers and Red Guards, giving one of them a chance to prove himself – but he must learn to control his temper. **10.00** **BBC News**: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** **Match of the Day 2**. **11.25** **Film: Minority Report**. (2002) Sci-fi thriller, starring Tom Cruise. **1.45** **Weatherview**. **1.50** **BBC News**.

#### BBC2

**6.00** **Film**: I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) **7.30** Monty Don's Italian Gardens. (R) **8.30** Countryfile. **9.25** Gardeners' World. **9.55** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.25** James Martin: Home Comforts. **12.10** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **1.10** Michel Roux's Service. (R) **2.10** Film: Rear Window. (1954) **4.00** Flog It! Trade Secrets. **4.30** Collectaholics. **5.30** The End of the Pier Show. **6.00** **The Hairy Bikers**. Si King and Dave Myers meet enthusiasts restoring machinery from the Industrial Revolution, beginning with a visit to a blacksmith in Derbyshire. **7.00** **Wild Burma: Nature's Lost Kingdom**. Gordon Buchanan and Justine Evans go in search of the sun bear, the Asian golden cat and the cloud leopard, and undercover filming in a border town leads to a shocking discovery. (R) **8.00** **Top Gear: Burma Special**. Part two of the three-part special venture into a state run by civil war. Last in the series. **9.00** **Fast and Fearless: Britain's Banger Racers**. Part two of two. Former champions come out of retirement for a memorial race. **10.00** **Me the Week Looks Back**. Britain's other themed selection from the show's archives. (R) **10.35** **Line of Duty**. (R) **11.35** **Film: The Shooting Party**. (1985) Period drama. **1.10** **Sign Zone**: Countryfile. (R) **2.05** **Holby City**. (R) **3.05** **Silk**. (R) **4.05** **This Is BBC Two**.

#### ITV

**6.00** **City**: Dino Dan. **6.10** Dino Dan. (R) **6.25** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **6.45** Canimals. (R) **6.55** Canimals. (R) **7.00** Canimals. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.15** Om Nom Stories. (R) **7.20** Sooty. (R) **7.25** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** TV News. **9.30** **Murder**. **9.45** White Heat. **10.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.20** **ITV News**: Weather. **11.30** River Monsters. (R) **12.30** The Crocodile Hunter. **1.35** All the Luck in the World. (R) **2.20** Agatha Christie's Marple. (R) **4.15** Film: The Man with the Golden Gun. (1974) **6.35** **Regional Programme**; Weather. **6.45** **ITV News**: Weather. **7.00** **Catchphrase**. New series. Stephen Fry hosts the game show in which three contestants guess the familiar phrases hidden in animated clues, before one of them plays to win £50,000. **8.00** **Barry's South Pole Heroes**. Part one of two. Prince Harry joins four injured British soldiers on a 125-mile expedition to the Antarctic as part of the Walking with the Wounded South Pole Allied Challenge 2013. **9.00** **Mr Selfridge**. Harry asks Delphine to organise a special event in store. **10.00** **ITV News at Ten**: Weather. **10.15** **You Saw Them Here First**. TV debuts by some of Britain's best-known faces. (R) **11.15** **Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union**. Action from the final. **12.15** **The Store**. **2.15** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **3.45** **ITV Nightscreen**. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **4.40** **Deal or No Deal**. (R) **5.35** **Freeports** on 4.

#### CHANNEL 4

**10.30** **Sunday Brunch**. **1.25** The Big Bang Theory. **1.50** The Simpsons. (R) **2.20** The Simpsons. (R) **2.50** Deal or No Deal. **3.45** Paralympic Winter Games: Closing Ceremony. The Games conclude in spectacular style at the Olympic Stadium in Sochi. **5.55** **Channel 4 News**. **6.30** **The Floods That Foiled New Year: Caught on Camera**. Documentary looking at the flooding that caused misery for many homeowners across the nation throughout winter, featuring eyewitness testimony and expert commentary. (R) **7.30** **Lost from Space: Lap of the Planets**. Astronauts on board the International Space Station complete a live 90-minute orbit of Earth, while Dermot O'Leary is with the team providing support in Houston. Last in the series. **10.05** **Film: Terminator Salvation**. (2009) In the future, resistance fighter John Connor leads a war against the machines that have taken over the world. Sci-fi thriller sequel, with Christian Bale and Sam Worthington. **12.15** **Film: Memento**. (2000) A man searches for his wife's killer in search of his own memory. **1.00** **Film: The Day of the Triffids**. (1981) A couple await the arrival of their fifth son. (R) **3.45** **Location, Location, Location**. Two families who have relocated to Aberdeen for work. (R) **4.40** **Deal or No Deal**. (R) **5.35** **Freeports** on 4.

#### CHANNEL 5

**6.00** **Milkshake!**: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Piff and the Flowerots. (R) **6.25** Bubble Guppies. (R) **6.35** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.10** Babes in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.45** Milkshake! Bop Box. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Mr Potato Head and the Ballerina. (R) **8.35** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.30** **Mr Potato Head and the Invisible**. (2006) **9.45** Film: The Haunted Mansion. (2003) **10.45** **5 News Weekend**. **11.05** **Film: Hellboy II: The Golden Army**. (2008) The demon hero battles a renegade elf prince who has returned to reawaken an unstoppable robot army and destroy mankind. Action fantasy sequel, starring Ron Perlman and Selma Blair. **9.00** **Film: Kill List**. (2011) A former secret agent takes on one last mission to save his mentor, but assassins are sent to stop him. Action thriller, with Jason Statham and Michael Fassbender. **11.15** **Film: Deadly Ground**. (1994) Ecological thriller. **1.15** **SuperCasino**. **3.10** **Dangerous Drivers**: School. (R) **4.00** **Wildlife SOS**. (R) **4.20** **Make It Big**. (R) **4.50** **The Funky Valley Show**. (R) **5.00** **Angels of Jarm**. (R) **5.10** **Hana's HelpLine**. (R) **5.20** **Angels of Jarm**.

#### DIGITAL

**BBC Three** **7.00** **Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel**. **7.20** **Film: Alice in Wonderland** (2010) **9.00** **Russell Howard's Good News** **10.00** **Guy 10.45** **Bluestone 42** **11.15** **American Dad!** **BBC Four** **7.00** **The Golden Age of Steam**. **8.00** **Oh Do Shut Up Dear!** **8.30** **Mary Beard on the Public Voice of Women** **9.00** **Timewatch: QE2 – The Final Voyage** **10.00** **Film: Coco Chanel** **11.50** **Britain on Film: Dedicated to Fashion** **ITV2** **3.55** **Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway** **5.20** **Film: About a Boy** (2002) **7.15** **Film: Mr Bean's Holiday** (2007) **9.00** **Educating Joey** **10.00** **Party Wright Around the World** **11.50** **The Big Reunion** (2014) **ITV3** **3.40** **The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes** **4.50** **Inspector Morse** **7.00** **Agatha Christie's Poirot** **9.00** **It'll Be Alright on the Night's Best of the Worst** **10.00** **Levi's** **E4** **3.00** **Film: The War Wagon** (1967) **5.00** **Film: Desperate Measures** (1983) **7.00** **Film: Way** **8.00** **Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union** **9.00** **Film: The Interpreter** (2004) **E4** **3.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **4.00** **The Tomorrow People** **5.00** **Troy** **6.00** **Brooklyn Nine-Nine** **6.30** **The Big Bang Theory** **8.00** **Film: Mission: Impossible** (1996) **10.15** **Rude Tube**: **Rude Tunes** **Film4** **2.50** **Carry On Dick** (1974) **4.40** **The Wedding Planner** (2001) **6.45** **Mad Money** (2008) **9.00** **Conviction** (2010) **Fact-based drama**. **11.05** **Sexy Beast** (2000)

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# Local Weekly

## Newspapers

# With You All The Way



## What's On!

## Film Choices

## MONDAY

**Talladega Nights: The Ballad of Ricky Bobby**, Channel 5, 11pm

A Nascar racing champion has everything he could want – until an arrogant French rival seizes the title from him, and his wife runs off with his best friend. Forced to move back in with his parents, the downhearted driver faces a battle to rebuild his shattered self-confidence and return to the track. Comedy, starring Will Ferrell, John C Reilly and Sacha Baron Cohen. (2006)

## TUESDAY

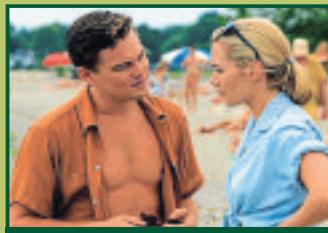
**Cries in the Dark**, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A cop investigates her pregnant sister's murder, and discovers her baby was delivered but is being held captive by the killer. Thriller, starring Eva La Rue and Adam Harrington. (2006)

## WEDNESDAY

**Brokeback Mountain**, Channel 4, 12.05am

A doomed love affair between two Wyoming cowboys develops over the course of 20 years. The relationship begins when they are hired to herd sheep on a remote mountain in the 1960s, and though they go their separate ways and try to settle down to married life, they are unable to overcome their desire for each other and continue to meet in secret. Ang Lee's drama, starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal. (2005)



Revolutionary Road, Friday, BBC2, 11.10pm

## THURSDAY

**Sea Devils**, Channel 4, 12.50pm

A smuggler in 19th-century Cornwall sneaks a woman into France, only to discover he has accidentally helped a spy flee the country. However, he later realises she is actually a double agent plotting to foil Napoleon's invasion of England. Swashbuckling adventure, starring Rock Hudson and Yvonne de Carlo. (1953)

## FRIDAY

**Duplicity**, ITV, 10.35pm

A former CIA agent and an ex-MI6 officer find their romantic past catching up with them as they go head to head working in counter-intelligence for multinational corporations. As they try to outmanoeuvre each other to gain information about a lucrative product, they have difficulty maintaining a professional focus amid the sexual tension. Thriller, starring Julia Roberts. (2009)

**Revolutionary Road**, BBC2, 11.10pm

Frank and April Wheeler live a picture-perfect life on the surface, but in truth are growing frustrated with their lot and feel stifled by their situation. When April suggests the family moves to France to start a new life, Frank is persuaded it is a good idea, though when he is offered a stable job with a lucrative pay packet he changes his mind. 1950s-set drama, starring Kate Winslet. (2008)

## Pick of the Week

## Dermot's new project is out of this world

**D**ermot O'Leary is no stranger to the vagueness of live TV – after all, he's the man who has had to get Louis Walsh to make his mind up about who he's sending home on The X Factor.

But now he's about to take on an even bigger challenge, as he helms a ground-breaking broadcast from the International Space Station.

The presenter won't actually be going into orbit himself, but he's thrilled just to be our man at Mission Control in Houston.

Dermot says: "This is such a mega and amazing programme to be part of, I am so looking forward to presenting it and I cannot wait."

"Going live with a TV show is always great, but to be able to say 'now we are going live to the Space Station' will be a fantastic and surreal experience."

It's going to be fairly mind-blowing for viewers as well, as the programme aims to take us around the world in 90 minutes – over the course of the broadcast, the space

station will be orbiting 250 miles above the Earth at speeds of up to 17,500 miles-per-hour.

And when they're not sharing their incredible views of our planet, two of the ISS's English-speaking astronauts, Rick Mastracchio and Koichi Wakata, will be interacting with the Earth-bound public.

No doubt Dermot will have a few questions for them as well. "For me, the point of going into television is I am always interested in people – whether it is an astronaut or a cab driver. I love getting stories and it is why I do the job I do."

"My fascination for this programme is two-fold. Aside from the live link-up and how brilliant that will be, there is that macabre thing where you wonder what you would do if something goes wrong. How do they deal with it? What do they do? Then there are the ordinary, daily things like how do they shave? How do they go about their day-to-day lives? Everything about it all fascinates me."

Although Dermot admits he's not an expert on space exploration, he does have a few boffins on hand.

He'll be joined in Houston by Mike Massimino, one of the astronauts who helped repair and upgrade the Hubble Telescope, but who might be best known to regular Channel 4 viewers for his cameo appearances on The Big Bang Theory, and there are also contributions from Stephen Hawking and British astronaut Tim Peake.

So after doing all the research and preparation for the show, and rubbing shoulders with the experts, is there a part of Dermot that wishes he was broadcasting from the Space Station itself?

He says: "You don't realise that when you talk about what it would be like to be an astronaut. The level of sacrifice they have to make is extraordinary and they have to be so fit and intelligent. They do have a certain purpose up there and the science that goes into it all really fascinates me – but no, I don't want to be an astronaut!"



Live from Space: Lap of the Planet, Sunday, Channel 4, 7.30pm

## Best of the Rest

## MONDAY

**The Widower**

ITV, 9pm

The League of Gentleman, Psychoville and the recent Inside No 9 all proved that Reece Shearsmith likes his comedy on the creepy side. But he's set to be even more unsettling in this new three-part drama, not least because it's inspired by a true story. Shearsmith stars as Malcolm Webster, whose new wife Claire (Sheridan Smith) is concerned by his mounting debts – but rather than sort out his finances, he instead tries to get her under control by systematically plying her with drugs, and then resorts staging a car accident, which claims her life. After collecting the life insurance cheque for £200,000, Malcolm moves to New Zealand and starts a new life, but old patterns start to repeat themselves...

## TUESDAY

**Shetland**

BBC1, 9pm

Perez and his team work against the clock to catch the killer of Catherine, a young girl found dead on a beach. He is in a dream-like state of shock when seven-year-old Catriona Bruce's body is discovered on a hill clutching a doll. The law enforcer thinks it's the same doll he sees in a photo at Magnus Bain's house, so the recluse is taken in for questioning while a mob expresses its anger. Though he tries to get answers, Perez just gets a whining from the suspect, and just before he's locked in a prison cell, Magnus lashes out. Douglas Henshall, Sophia Carr-Gomm and Brian Cox head the cast.

## The Plantagenets

BBC2, 9pm

They may not have got their own sexy mini-series like the Tudors, but the Plantagenets can take some comfort in the fact that no other dynasty managed to reign over England for so long. From Henry II's accession to the throne in 1154 until Richard III's death in 1485, they ruled the land – and now Professor Robert Bartlett is telling the Plantagenet story. He begins, fittingly enough, with Henry II, looking at how he created an empire that took in much of France as well as England. But his legacy was threatened by his warring sons Richard and John, who at one point looked set to destroy the royal house.

## Undercover Doctor: Cure Me, I'm Gay

Channel 4, 10pm

Dr Christian Jessen is most famous for going about his medical business on Channel 4 favourites Embarrassing Bodies and SuperSize vs Superskinny, and until now his homosexuality has never been relevant to his media work. However, this one-off documentary investigates matters close to his heart, namely attitudes towards gay people, and sees Christian going undercover to investigate – and undertake – controversial gay 'cures' both here and over in America. The doc is shocked to discover that there are some

people who believe homosexuality to be a disorder that needs curing, so he's eager to prove or disprove their claims by offering himself up for the treatment.

## WEDNESDAY

W1A

BBC2, 10pm

When you have a sitcom as successful and critically acclaimed as Twenty Twelve, it seems only natural to carry on the saga, even if the event the key characters are plugging – the London Olympics – has come and gone. So the good news is Hugh Bonneville and Jessica Hynes are back for this new BBC-centric saga, and they are joined by Sarah Parish. In the first offering, accusations of anti-Cornish bias are levelled at the BBC, so Ian calls in Siobhan, of PR company Perfect Curve, to advise him.

Meanwhile, producer Lucy Freeman chairs a meeting about pending show Britain's Tastiest Village – a mash-up of Britain's Got Talent, Countryfile and The One Show.

THURSDAY

**Turks & Caicos**

BBC2, 9pm

Typical, you wait three years for a sequel to the terrific BBC film

Page Eight, and then two come along at once. Starring Bill Nighy as MI5 spy Johnny Worricke, Page Eight was shown to great acclaim in 2011, and now Turks and Caicos picks up where that left off. We find former analyst Worricke hiding out from MI5 in the West Indies, where an encounter with a CIA agent forces him into the company of some dubious American businessmen. As he learns more about the extent of their nefarious schemes, he ends up having to fight for his own survival as he uncovers links to the British prime minister. Christopher Walken, Helena Bonham Carter, Winona Ryder and Ralph Fiennes co-star.

## FRIDAY

Sport Relief 2014

BBC1, 7pm

The brains behind this charity extravaganza have pulled off a coup that could turn Comic Relief's Red Nose green with envy – it boasts the return of Only Fools and Horses after a 10-year absence from our screens. Del Boy (David Jason) and Rodney (Nicholas Lyndhurst) are reuniting for a one-off sketch, but if you're wondering where exactly the sport comes in, they are joined by a special guest star – that's right, David Beckham is heading to Peckham. The rest of the evening's broadcast comes live from Queen Elizabeth Park, with Gary Lineker, David Walliams, Claudia Winkelman, Jack Whitehall, Fearne Cotton and Davina McCall (who has hopefully got her breath back after her strenuous fund-raising efforts last month) on presenting duties.



Sport Relief 2014, Friday, BBC1, 7pm

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Source: Newspaper Society



# Family home with stunning views towards golf course



A FOUR-BEDROOMED detached home in Hartsbourne Drive, Halesowen, has stunning views over Leasowes Park towards Halesowen Golf Club. It is for sale through Taylors estate agent at £349,950.

Standing at the head of a cul-de-sac it also has a rear garden and landscaped front garden with a double-width driveway.

Accommodation comprises a double-glazed porch, entrance hall, cloakroom with a WC, a well-proportioned lounge with feature fireplace in a stone surround, a delightful and spacious double-glazed conservatory with underfloor heating, carpeting and garden views, dining room, spacious kitchen with units and contrasting work surfaces, an integral oven, hob, fridge and two dishwashers and French doors to rear garden. There is a utility, four double bedrooms, (one with en suite), a house bathroom with a corner bath, double garage with electric doors.

Contact Taylors' Halesowen branch on 0121 550 3978 or visit [www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-estateagents.co.uk)



## Three-storey barn conversion in village



A RARE example of a three-storey period barn conversion in an enviable village location is on sale with estate agent Peter James.

The property at The Courtyard, Back Lane, Ackleton, has a lounge, fabulous beamed dining room, kitchen, separate utility, four bedrooms and two bath/shower rooms with brand new suites. There is a large garden, oil-fired central heating, garage and parking for two cars. There is an 130ft south-facing rear garden. The barn conversion has timber double-glazed windows and exposed rafters. On the market for £325,000, this home is part of an exclusive development of barns belonging to Ackleton Manor. Call 01902 754777.



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**LADYWOOD, DROITWICH  
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A two/three bed bungalow set in gardens of 0.48 acres with parking and garage. There is PP for extension/replacement of garage. The property is immaculately presented however there is evidence of movement.  
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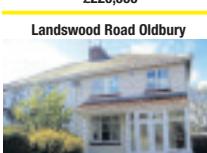
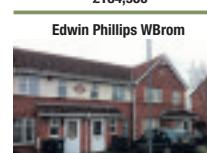
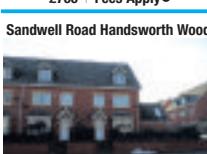
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# Detached home is in cul-de-sac near park



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It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £285,000. It has reception hall, large lounge, dining room, re-fitted kitchen with utility off, conservatory, study and downstairs cloakroom. The first floor has four bedrooms (master with en suite) and a refitted shower room. The property also has gardens, gas central heating, double glazing and a double garage. The entrance hall has polished hardwood flooring. Contact Hicks Hadley on 0121 585 6667 or visit [www.hickshadley.com](http://www.hickshadley.com)



## Character home with views of the Arboretum

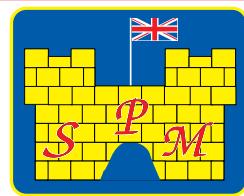


A **SIX-BEDROOMED** traditional character home in Victoria Terrace, Walsall, has impressive accommodation, original features and views over The Arboretum. It is for sale via Bairstow Eves at offers over £340,000. **NO chain.**

Accommodation comprises impressive entrance hallway with a cellar off, reception room one with feature fireplace and bay window to the front, reception room two with a bay window to the front and a fireplace and a third reception room/dining room. There is also a shower room, breakfast kitchen and office/playroom.

On the first floor is a master bedroom with bathroom, four further bedrooms and staircase to bedroom six. The rear garden has a paved patio and lawn.

Contact Bairstow Eves on 01922 430925, visit [www.bairstoweves.co.uk](http://www.bairstoweves.co.uk)

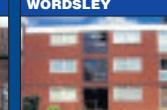


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## PROPERTY SERVICES

### PEDMORE ROAD LYB



A substantial three bedroom detached property close to the heart of Lyb with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, entrance hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, downstairs cloakroom, three bedrooms and a bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, carport at the side of the property providing useful off road parking and an enclosed rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£595PCM DEPOSIT £695 + FEES



### FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A Superb two bedroom Modern End Terrace in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, galley style kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed front garden and allocated parking with additional visitors bays. UNFURNISHED EPC=D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£500PCM DEPOSIT £600 + FEES



### HIGH STREET HARBORNE

A spacious two bedroom first floor maisonette with accommodation to comprise of: entrance, kitchen, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further boasts electric storage heating, roof terrace and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES



### LIDDIA RD COURT WOLLASTON

A beautifully presented two bedroom second floor maisonette to let in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Communal entrance, communal lounge, entrance hall, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, storage heating, communal gardens and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C PETS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO

£525PCM- DEPOSIT £625 - FEES



### DADFORD VIEW BRIERLEY HILL

An attractive modern starter home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, two Bedrooms and Shower Room. The property also benefits from sealed unit Double Glazing, small fore Garden and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES

£400PCM- DEPOSIT £500 + FEES



### BAGLEY'S ROAD BRIERLEY HILL

A very well presented One Bedroom Ground Floor Flat in a popular residential location. Accommodation to comprise: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Inner Hall, Bedroom and Bathroom. In addition there is a small planted Fore Garden, Communal Parking and a Communal Rear Garden with drying area. FURNISHED/UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO DSS: NO SMOKERS: NO.

£395PCM - DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



### HIGH STREET WORDSLEY

A well presented one bedroom first floor apartment with accommodation to comprise of: Private entrance, open plan Lounge/Kitchen being fully carpeted and with oven and hob, Bedroom with built in storage and Bathroom with shower. The property further benefits from double glazing and electric heating.

There is allocated parking to the rear of the property. UNFURNISHED EOC RATING = G DSS: YES PETS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 + FEES



### THORNS ROAD QUARRY BANK

A delightful refurbished two bedroom detached Bungalow situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Porch, Entrance Hall, lounge, kitchen, separate WC, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having double glazing, gas central heating, enclosed rear garden, and private driveway to the fore with garage and affording off road parking.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£595 DEPOSIT £695 + FEES



### THE EMBANKMENT MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented two bedroom ground floor part furnished apartment, close to all amenities the Merry Hill Centre has to offer. The accommodation consists of: Video entry system, entrance hall, two bedrooms, master with en-suite, fitted kitchen, lounge, bathroom. The property further benefits from electric storage and double glazing.

PART FURNISHED (Furniture in the property is 1 double bed, sofa, table & chairs, 2 wardrobes). EPC RATING = D DSS: NO SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES



### THE EMBANKMENT MERRY HILL

£525PCM DEPOSIT £625 + FEES



### FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

A Superb two bedroom Modern End Terrace in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, lounge, galley style kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, enclosed front garden and allocated parking with additional visitors bays. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£500PCM DEPOSIT £600 + FEES



### TISSUE SQUARE MERRY HILL

An extremely well presented unfurnished one bedroom apartment situated in the heart of the Merry Hill Centre close to all amenities. Accommodation comprises of Video entry system, entrance hall, fitted kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating and double glazing and allocated parking space. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: NO SMOKERS: NO

£495PCM DEPOSIT £595 + FEES



### GEORGE ROAD HALESOWEN

A well presented traditional two bedroom Mid Terrace situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance hall, through lounge/diner, fully fitted kitchen, two good sized bedrooms & bathroom. The property further benefits from Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking and an Enclosed Rear Garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£450PCM DEPOSIT £550 + FEES



### HOLLY ROAD ROWLEY REGIS

A Two Bedroom End Terrace Victorian property situated in a popular location. Accommodation comprises of: Lounge, breakfast kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas fired central heating, double glazing and a rear garden. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

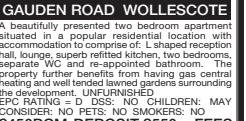
£495PCM- DEPOSIT £595+FEES



### BEACH MEWS CRADLEY

An Unfurnished two bedroom modern, semi detached property in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of: Large reception hall, lounge, superb refitted kitchen, two bedrooms, separate wc and a rear garden. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, rear garden and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£495PCM- DEPOSIT £595+FEES



### GAUDEN ROAD WOLLESCOTE

A beautifully presented two bedroom apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, through lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and a bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and well tended lawned gardens surrounding the property. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO PETS: NO

£450PCM-DEPOSIT £550 + FEES



### BELL STREET BRIERLEY HILL

A Beautifully presented refurbished and spacious one bedroom first floor flat having direct access to Brierley Hill shopping centre. The accommodation comprises of: Entrance with staircase to the first floor, first floor landing, lounge, breakfast kitchen, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating and double glazing. PART FURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: MAY CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



### BLAENWERN DRIVE HALESOWEN

A spacious two bedroom first floor apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Entrance Hall, lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property also benefits from having storage heating, double glazing, communal gardens and en-bloc garage. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£395PCM DEPOSIT £495 + FEES



### TAMAR RISE AMBLECOTE



A well presented one bedroom first floor Apartment situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Reception hall, lounge, kitchen, bedroom and built in shower room. The property also benefits from double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£390PCM DEPOSIT £490 + FEES



### KINGSWAY WOLLASTON

A well presented two bedroom large first floor flat situated close to all local amenities with accommodation to comprise: Reception hall, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from double glazing and gas central heating. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS: NO PETS: NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS: NO

£375PCM DEPOSIT £475 + FEES

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# Versatile and elegant car

Citroën's new Grand C4 Picasso has been named 'MPV of the Year' in the UK Car of the Year Awards (UKCOTY), an independent set of awards specifically designed to benefit UK drivers, highlighting and championing the very best cars on the market.

The UKCOTY team includes some of the most respected names in motoring journalism, covering the whole industry and all parts of the UK. Many of the judges will evaluate in excess of 300 cars a year and the combined panel reaches more than 80 million consumers a month.

The stylish new seven-seater MPV, only launched at the beginning of this year, won over the 27-strong judging panel with praise given for its 'impressive engine line-

up', 'superb functionality', 'family-friendly features' and 'feel-good' factor' within the commentary.

Alongside the UKCOTY honours, the new Citroën Grand C4 Picasso has already been named BBC TopGear magazine's 'Family Car of the Year' and What Car? Magazine's 'MPV of the Year'. It is also one of just seven finalists shortlisted for Car of the Year 2014.

Available from £19,200 on-the-road, the new Grand C4 Picasso is a practical, versatile and elegant offering for the seven-seat compact MPV segment that strikes a new balance between benchmark space and engaging styling, combined with record efficiency.

The new Citroën Grand C4 Picasso stands out as the most practical, the most versatile and the most elegant product offering in the seven-seat compact MPV segment.



Stands out as the most practical, the most versatile and the most elegant offering for MPV compact

In terms of design, the model features a pioneering balance between best-in-class interior space and engaging exterior styling – all combined with record levels of efficiency and 'Créative Technologie'.

Highlights include: A loft-inspired interior delivering an uncluttered feel and best-in-class comfort for all passengers, technologies for well-being, including a seven-inch Touch Drive interface combined with a HD 12-inch panoramic screen and innovations

for an increasingly user-friendly drive, including an all-new 360° Vision system.

The car features ground-breaking proportions, providing an ideal combination of versatility, cabin space and accessibility, with three rows of seats for up to seven occupants.

Although the latest model is virtually the same length as its predecessor the platform has allowed Citroën's engineers to extend the wheelbase to 2.84m.

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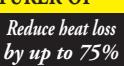
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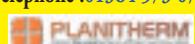
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You will reach over 56,000\* readers each week, covering Stourbridge, Brierley Hill, Wordsley, Quarry Bank, Lye, Wollaston, Amblecote and Hagley.

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\*source Jicreg 1.10.2013

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3 Market Street, Stourbridge DY8 1AB

# Classified Ads

Buy Local, Sell Local

## Index

### 1 Family

### 2 Leisure Time

### 3 Home & Services

### 4 Pets & Animals

### 5 Business & Farming

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### 10 Personals

#### funeral directors

##### Wombourne Funeral Services 3rd Generation Family Business & Monumental Masons

24hr Personal Service  
Private Chapels of Rest  
Pre-paid Funeral Plans  
Wombourne 01902 892635  
Perton 01902 756830  
Kinver 01384 873499

##### J.T. BROOKES

Independent family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
Brierley Hill 01384 77098  
Kingswinford 01384 296683  
Hagley 01562 888041  
[www.nedowning.co.uk](http://www.nedowning.co.uk)

#### lost & found

LOST—Black and white female cat  
disappeared. Last seen on spot on  
back, Sedgley, Coseley area,  
since March 3. 07806 664073.

#### religious notices

#### christadelphian

ISRAEL IN GOD'S PURPOSE  
The world is disappearing.  
The rise of anti-semitism. March 16, at 6pm. The Community  
Centre, High Street, Kingswinford.  
Or write to: 100 Kingswinford  
Road, Kingswinford DY6 9BR for  
free information pack or ring 01384  
886544 for recorded message.

##### 1 Family

#### education & tuition

##### CLOISTERS

STOURBRIDGE TUTORS Est 1992  
West Midlands Premier Agency  
Home individual tutoring  
LOCAL QUALIFIED TUTORS  
Protection of Children Act  
regulated and Police checked  
Primary, 11+, SATS,  
Secondary, GCSE, A, Deg. etc.  
0121 212 4986  
01902 671683  
[www.cloisters tutoring.co.uk](http://www.cloisters tutoring.co.uk)  
NEW TUTORS WELCOME

#### elderly & disabled

BARGAIN, MOBILITY SCOOTER  
Excellent condition.  
4 wheels.  
Folds into boot.  
Can deliver free if local.  
£295.  
07508 311029.

ELECTRIC ARMCHAIR, reclines,  
£150.  
07508 660317.

ELECTRIC RISE/recline chair, used  
2 weeks only. Immaculate. Gold  
colour. £1,000 new. £450 o.n.o.  
01902 695217 / 07527 142712.

World of Mobility  
NEW Electric Scooters  
from only £695  
Second hand from £300

Manual Wheelchairs  
from £110

STAIRLIFTs / ELECTRIC BEDS  
from £495

Showroom 108C Bretell Lane, Ambleside Stourbridge  
DYS 4BS or call 01384 378252  
OPEN MON-SAT 9-5 pm FREE PARKING AT REAR

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IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
For items upto £250.  
Online at  
[www.expressandstar.com  
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MOBILITY SCOOTER. Four wheels.  
Very good condition. Dismantles  
easily to fit in a car boot. Can deliver  
locally. £275. 01384 822991.

WREKIN STAIRLIFTS reconditioned  
lifts. £799. Plus New  
Lifts. 01922 405387/07897 273817

#### toys

BOX 360 MC2 Steering wheel,  
pedals, as new. £25. Football  
game, removable legs. Excellent  
condition. £15. 01902 608640.

BOX 360 MC2 Steering wheel,  
pedals, as new. £25. Football  
game, removable legs. Excellent  
condition. £15. 01902 608640.

##### 2 Leisure Time

#### bikes

ADULT TRIKE excellent condition,  
hardly used. £175. 01902 750873.

#### caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK near Ludlow.  
Immaculate caravans from £10,000.  
Why go further? 01584 823433.

AWNINGS, SANDIAGO, SIZE 805.  
All panels removable, complete  
with inner tent. Blue and grey. £90.  
07940 707680.

AWNINGS, SANDIAGO, SIZE 805.  
All panels removable, complete  
with inner tent. Blue and grey. £90.  
07940 707680.

BAILEY MONARCH Series 6, 2007, with motor  
mover, 2-berth, blow air  
heating, built in microwave,  
removable carpets, alloy  
wheels, extras. £595.

01902 375976. 07884 074389.

BAILEY SENATOR 2007. 4 berth,  
end bathroom, in immaculate condition.  
Many extras, £7,250. Call for  
further details 07831 627054.

LUNAR FREELANDER (SOLARIS)  
2006 lightweight Fixed Bed 4-Berth  
in excellent condition. Lightly used.  
Extras include Mover & Al-KO ATC.  
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SPRITE ALPINE 2 bed, bought new in 2011.  
Large end bathroom, motor  
mover, full length Dorema  
awning. Many extras. £6,800.  
01384 620424.

STATIC CARAVAN Quiet, riverside site, near Builth  
Wells, Wales, fishing, sleeps 7,  
many extras. 11 months  
licensing, fees paid until 2015.  
£4,200. 07906 312935.

STERLING ECCLES CARAVAN 4 berth, end bed, 2008, full  
size Isabia awning, plus sun  
canopy and extras.  
Immaculate condition, £8,500.

07985 084374. 07534 410236.

#### caravans wanted

All Caravans Wanted

Any age or condition

\*CASH WAITING\*

Immediate collection

Call Bill on 07760 344 750

#### sports & leisure

ELectRIC GOLF BUGGY  
4 wheels, 2 seater.  
2006 President model.  
Good condition.  
New batteries 2 years ago.  
A few scratches.  
£1,250. o.n.o.

01902 846788 / 07961 187683

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IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY  
For items upto £250.  
Online at  
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#### caravan sales

Cosalt Riviera Caravan  
35x10, 3-bed: Sea Views,  
Wide Horizons, Aberaeron.  
Perfect condition

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Private appointments and home  
visits. Call 01902 334224.

#### weddings

#### car hire

A ALL YEAR DISCOUNT! White  
Rolls Cloud, Shadow & Vintage  
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236189 / 01902 889528 [www.wedding-services.magic.net](http://www.wedding-services.magic.net)

#### function rooms

FREE FUNCTION ROOM Weddings,  
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Powerleague 01902 266000  
[halesowen@powerleague.co.uk](http://halesowen@powerleague.co.uk)

#### what's on

#### antique fairs

#### book fair

BOOK FAIR Kinson Comm Centre,  
Sunday 16th March, 9-3pm.  
Karen 01384 277373.

#### what's on

#### items for sale

ANTIQUE CRAFT  
Collectors Fair  
Wolverhampton  
(Coven Memorial Hall)  
WV9 5DL  
Sunday, 16th March, 9 - 3pm.  
Karen 01384 277373.

HORSE MANURE, well rotted, 10  
bags £12. 20 bags £25.  
Free delivery. 07522 997130.

#### lawn tractor 22HP 42" CUT

With collector, totally new and  
unused, cost £3,500.  
Will accept £1,695.  
Can deliver - £50.  
Telephone 07710 169150.

#### lawn tractor 22HP 42" CUT

With collector, totally new and  
unused, cost £3,500.  
Will accept £1,695.  
Can deliver - £50.  
Telephone 07710 169150.

#### items wanted

#### antiques

GRANDFATHER CLOCK. In need of  
some work but in good condition,  
£500 o.n.o. 01921 790687.

#### collectables & memorabilia

DUDLEY COLOSSEUM theatre  
programmes, 1897-1898 (3).  
£100 each. 01902 331502.

#### furniture

BEAUTIFUL LEATHER Cream  
sofa, nearly new, £300 o.n.o.  
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#### readers are advised

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for work by oldies & sons. Job too  
small. See us on 'Rate'.

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leather suite, still wrapped,  
£1,000, accept £399. Unwanted gift.  
Can deliver. 07818 618926.

BRAND NEW recliner settee and 1  
reclining chair in cream leather,  
code 1311. 0121 610 1689.

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100 o.n.o. Two wardrobes, £50  
both. 07581 295995.

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WANTED

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work by oldies & sons. Job too

small. See us on 'Rate'.

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FREE MEASURE AND DESIGN SERVICE  
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**SPEEDY KITCHENS, BROAD STREET, TELFORD, TF1 3EL**

**painters / decorators****LOVE 2 WALLPAPER**

Reliable & Friendly, Professional Female Painter and Decorator  
Quality work with competitive prices  
For the Perfect finish with minimum hassle.  
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A YEOMANS DECORATING References & competitive quotes. Call now: 07543 834132 or 01922 513008

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Recession rates, FREE QUOTES

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Single items to Full Removals, 01902 894916 / 07807 773035

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All neutered, inoculated and chipped. Call 01222 412212 or www.rgtwolverhampton.co.uk

**NOTICE TO READERS**

Please be aware that when purchasing a puppy there are some simple guidelines you can follow to ensure that you are not purchasing from a Puppy Farmer.

1. Try to ensure you visit the puppy whilst it is still with its Mother.

2. Do not arrange to collect a puppy from any other location than that of the breeder.

3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

Whilst Midland News Association publications take great care to avoid publication of advertisements from Puppy Farmers we cannot accept any liability should readers purchase from this kind of establishment.

**A MAN WITH A VAN** Single items, flat/house removals/clearances, local/nationwide, Call Steve 0121 422 2999 or 07543 043724

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Local Careful Firm Full or Part loads  
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01902 238989 or 07580 465449

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All sizes  
All areas covered  
Immediate delivery  
Competitive prices  
Fast and Reliable service  
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**4 Pets & Animals**

**equestrian corner**

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Are desperately seeking a forever home for LOLA. She is around 9 months old and is a medium to large cross-breed.

She is very friendly and loves a cuddle, she gets on well with other dogs. She is house-trained and crate trained.

Lola is neutered, micro-chipped and vaccinated.

Home checks and adoption fee will apply.

Angela 07714 442263 or 01384 565501  
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**5 Business & Farming**

**accountants**

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**READERS** are recommended to take appropriate professional advice before entering any obligations.

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Local investor pays 10k more. Call Alex 07729 297901

**WE GUARANTEE TO BUY YOUR HOUSE IN 3 DAYS!**

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**business opportunities**

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# Classified Ads

7  
Jobs

part time - general

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MCV Driver Training

DSA QUALIFIED INSTRUCTORS  
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and far

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Eurostar, self-drive  
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Brought to you by the Express & Star

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CRB cleared.  
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## 8 Motoring

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THIS COULD  
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1.8 SE, 2000, MoT'd and taxed,  
FSH, AC, with hard top, a very  
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THIS COULD  
BE YOURS

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## Chess club take their tally up to 18 points

ON Monday Stourbridge Chess Club played host to Brewood in Wolverhampton 3, looking to get their drive for promotion and a possible league title back on track, following last week's setback against Halesowen.

Eric Horwill and John Foxall were the first to finish with draws on the top 2 boards.

On board 4, Paul Sharratt turned down a draw offer to play for the win and managed to launch a decisive attack in the quick play finish to win.

Tony Shaw managed to break through and win a piece. He then started to apply pressure and his opponent resigned. Steve Jukes agreed to a draw.

With 18 points and only a very unlikely set of results only Halesowen and Walsall Kipping can deny promotion, but it would be nice to win the division title too.

On Wednesday evening there were 2 matches at Stourbridge. It played host to Shirley and Wythall.

The games were all very tight throughout the evening.

## Wolves are 'bringing back pride'

RICHARD STEARMAN says Wolves are bringing back to the city.

Wolverhampton-born Stearman is one of several players still at the club to have won promotion to the Premier League with Wolves and played for them in three divisions after the wreckage of their 'double-dip' relegation.

But he now said proudly: "It's become a thoroughly enjoyable place to come to work again and I think we're bringing some pride back to the city."

"I hope we're rewarding the fans for a couple of years of not-so-great football they've seen and we can continue to get better."

As one of a back four which is the meanest defence in the country with just 20 goals conceded this season, Stearman has been something of an unsung hero alongside homegrown Danny Bath.

"It's so far so good for the partnership with Danny," he said.

# Hales get sweet win over Bournville

**Halesowen 36 Bournville 3**

HALES had last minute changes due to illness, however, the much welcomed return of second row, Rich Sawyer was a breath of fresh air to the home team.

Also full back Chris Hooper returned after knee surgery and reminded the crowd of his ability, experience and organisation in the backs. Hales came out of the blocks full on.

After only four minutes Hales won a scrum which player/coach Mark Evans took from the base. Supported by his pack Hales worked through 8 phases in dom-

inance. Scrum Half Nathan Jones co-ordinating, fed the backs with Hooper finding the gap to score, converted by Steve Powell.

Skipper Rich Taylor, Tom Jordan, Rich Sawyer and flanker Loz Breese were totally dominant in forward driving power and yards made.

Bournville fought back to earn a penalty to make the score. Continued pressure by Hales in all departments produced a clean ball for centre Andy Robinson to slice through the visitors defence for a copy book score.

The visitors fought back in short

## Rugby

periods and looked to exert some pressure in the backs. However, a loose pass saw Rich Sawyer intercept to sprint 30 metres to score a crucial try, converted by Powell.

In the second half things were much the same, Bournville struggling to find a way through the Hales defence and the total dominance of the home side. The visitors seemed shell shocked at the power of Hales in all departments.

Another line out, another clean ball by Mark Evans, a drive for 20

metres, supported by the rampant Sawyer who fed the ever-present Tom Jordan who sprinted for the try of the match, converted by Hooper.

Hales relaxed for a while but built again, Bournville under pressure, gave penalties away and lost a player to the bin for collapsing a maul. From the penalty Nathan Jones fed Powell. Evans took the ball on and worked another phase.

Backs again into action and a wide pass to wing Simon Sabel gave him room to beat his opposite man to the corner to lead 31-3. The crowd of more than 200

were well entertained and thought it was all over. On 80 minutes, Hales again took possession in the middle of the field, Powell filling in at scrum half for injured Nathan Jones slipped the ball to wing Luke Smith.

He took the right option this time of using his pace, he set off from his own 22 to outpace the Bournville defence for a fine try to seal the victory 36-3. A real positive for Hales who now sit third in the National 3 Midlands League.

This Saturday could be a deciding factor as Old Hales meet league rivals Sutton Coldfield.

## Pedmore take the unbeaten honours

**Pedmore (126-4) beat**

**Envile A (99-3) by 27 runs**

THE two remaining unbeaten teams in the Kinver section of the Worcestershire league met at Edgecliff School Sports Hall and Pedmore came out the clear winners.

Openers Dave Skelding (31 no) and Sam Peruzza (33) threw down the gauntlet from the off with good placement and running between the wickets.

Skelding retired first bringing John Hurdman (25 no) to continue the good work.

Lower order batsmen were content to sacrifice their wickets to keep up the pressure which also brought back the openers. Skelding and Peruzza kept the scoreboard ticking to present Envile with an above average run chase. Some accurate bowling from John Hurdman and Chris Bourne made it difficult for Envile, and when Matt Branch (27 no) retired scoring almost came to a halt. Greg Tomkins (25 no) contributed but Envile were never ahead of the game and it's Pedmore who remain unbeaten.

Lye (68-4) lost to Oldswinford (70-0) with 2 overs remaining

## Even game finishes up goalless

**Sporting Khalsa 0**

**Lye Town 0**

With first playing third this was always going to be a close game and so it proved with very few clear cut chances for either side.

Khalsa looked to be on top of the game with several half-chances until the game was delayed after 25 minutes when the referee sustained a hamstring injury and was unable to continue. The game continued after a delay of 30 minutes once a replacement official was found. The Lye Town keeper was certainly the busier of the two keepers in the first half.

The visitors were on top of the game after the interval and had the better scoring chances which were either spurned or well defended by Khalsa. Khalsa looked lively on the break after the introduction of Reece Cottrell who went close to scoring for Khalsa.



Saxon's Chris Depper takes on the Otley defence during the closely fought match

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# SPORT

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**Kirkham is back as boss of Robins**

DUDLEY Town have welcomed back Nigel Kirkham to the club as interim manager after The Robins navigated through a difficult few weeks following the departures of key members of staff to Gornal Athletic.

Kirkham is no stranger to the club having been involved with its youth teams and also had a brief spell as joint manager with Neil Perks in early 2011. Chairman Stephen Austin feels he has made a sound appointment, who can steer the club through the remaining fixtures of the 2013/14 season.

"Nigel has come in with the blessing of the Committee and the under-21 and Under18 managers who will remain an integral part of the Management Team until season close. I thank Nigel and the managers for taking an almost impossible task to see us through to season close".

The appointment of Kirkham will also allow the club ample time to find a permanent successor to Andy Wyton and Austin is hoping to make an appointment as soon as possible.

"We have had 12 applications so far and these will continue to be assessed, a short list put together and interviews undertaken. With Nigel coming in we can now take our time with this process."

**Jackett builds for the future**

KENNY Jackett says he is building today's Wolves team for tomorrow - if they can complete their promotion quest.

The Molineux head coach isn't taking anything for granted in the race for automatic promotion, with neither themselves, Leyton Orient and Brentford blinking in a relentless accumulation of wins.

But while keen to divorce himself from any premature triumphalism, he believes if Wolves go up this season, he has players able to survive and thrive in a higher grade of football.

"If we can be successful this year there may not be too many who have made their name in the Championship, but the big thing is they have the ability to do that and the desperation and hunger to do it," said Jackett. Wolves currently top League One.

## Sweet victory

Halesowen put the heat on Bournville

**Page 39**

## Saxons survive

Squad hold on in face of late revival

**Page 39**



email: Chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

## Yeltz grab valuable three points with victory

### Gresley 0 Halesowen 2

Halesowen gained 3 priceless points against mid-table side Gresley, as goals from Christie and Haseley pushed the Yeltz back into the top spot.

There were two changes to the Yeltz side, as Nigel Penney took the place of the absent Tom Tonks, and Brendan Kelly stood in for Asa Charlton.

Halesowen took the lead early on, as Ben Haseley showed his more threatening side, as he burst through the Gresley defence, but he hit the ball too well, and the ball bounced off the underside of the crossbar and back to Haseley whose headed attempt was weak, and the ball went wide of the goal.

### Football

Gresley kept fighting though, as Eric Graves burst into the Yeltz penalty area, but his on-target shot was well saved by Sergeant on the 10 minute mark.

But Halesowen were the more dominant side, as Ben Haseley showed his more threatening side, as he burst through the Gresley defence, but he hit the ball too well, and the ball bounced off the underside of the crossbar and back to Haseley whose headed attempt was weak, and the ball went wide of the goal.

But it wasn't long before the Yeltz claimed another goal, as the Gresley defence couldn't deal with the attacking presence of Ben Haseley as he gathered the ball from the halfway line, ran into the penalty area and he slotted the ball easily under the outtrunning Mats Morsch to double Halesowen's advantage.

The second half proved to be a quiet affair for both sides, as Halesowen went into defensive mode, and Gresley struggled to get through. The best chance of the half came from Gresley, as Alex Steadman took the ball round the outstretching hands of Matt Sergeant, but his attempted shot was

blocked by Curtis Tilt. The closing stages of the game gave chance for Danny Waldron and Colin Smith to gain some experience, but after a few minutes of the pair coming on, the game came to an end and Halesowen claimed another 3 crucial points that put them back on top of the league, and possibly closer to the title.

**Halesowen:** Matt Sergeant, Kristian Green, Brendan Kelly, Aaron Forde, Joe Hull, Curtis Tilt, Aaron Griffiths, Nigel Penney, Iyseden Christie (Daniel Waldron 87'), Ben Haseley (Colin Smith 91'), Neil Mackenzie (Tony Chard 91') **Unused Subs:** Sam Pearson, Asa Charlton.

**Massive job ahead says Henry**

JAMES HENRY says Wolves still have a "massive job" to do despite equaling a club record and finally opening a gap at the top of League One.

Saturday's feisty 3-0 win at Walsall put Kenny Jackett's leaders two points clear of Leyton Orient with two games in hand on the Londoners, and three ahead of third-placed Brentford.

But winger Henry, who set up the first two goals and earned the free kick for the third at the Banks' Stadium, believes Wolves have it all to do.

"There's still a massive job to do," he said. "Come May 4 we want to be in one of the top two spots, and preferably the top spot."

"We're under no illusions - it's going to be a tough 13 games but we're going into them thinking it's one match at a time and believing we can win every one."

"Our back four record is incredible - to only concede 20 goals all season is brilliant but there are still 13 games to go."

"We want to keep as many clean sheets and keep that tally as low as possible and at the same time score goals if we want to remain at the top of the league."

**Clarke must be patient, Jackett**

KENNY Jackett has vowed Leon Clarke will become a major player for Wolves - but he must be patient.

He missed three games with a bruised heel but appeared as a late substitute for two-goal Nouha Dicko against Walsall.

"He's going to be a big player for us and we're going to need him," insisted Jackett.

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# GLASSBOYS SUNK BY SINGLE SHOT

Stourbridge 0 St Albans 1

**A DISAPPOINTING home defeat to fellow play-off contenders St Albans City means Stourbridge have now won only one of their last seven matches in all competitions at the War Memorial Athletic Ground - and they could have few complaints about this loss.**

The score turned out to be one of few clear chances. Play, particularly in the first period, was frantic and the Glassboys' midfield made little impression.

The Saints threatened in the first minute with Danny Green pushing the ball through to Mark Nwokeji on the right-hand side of the box, but as he was closed down quickly by keeper Dean Coleman, the striker hurried his shot horribly wide.

### Hooking

Nwokeji went closer six minutes later as St Albans looked to exploit his pace again with James Kaloczi lofting the ball over the top.

Nwokeji and Stour's Will Richards gave chase with the forward hooking a leg around the Stour defender to get in a shot that hit the side-netting.

In the 10th minute the Glassboys carved out their best move of the half as Ben Billingham fed Jordan Fitzpatrick. He cut in from the right only for keeper Paul

### Football

Bastock to save his curling shot.

With 21 minutes gone, the hosts fell behind. Richard Comley slipped a ball into Sam Corcoran who clipped a short pass towards Nwokeji just inside the box. He looked to flick the ball back for Corcoran; defender Andre Francis got there first, but dithered and Corcoran stole in to stab the ball past Coleman.

George Washborne replaced Aaron Drake for the second half, but although the Glassboys showed more urgency they found it hard to prise open the defence.

In the 62nd minute Luke Benbow and Billingham exchanged passes only for the former to slice his shot wide.

The visitors responded three minutes when substitute Chris Henry sent over a teasing cross which was turned away for a corner.

Gary Hackett's men then threatened twice from set-pieces in a matter of minutes. In the 72nd minute Sean Geddes sent over a deep free-kick from the left, but Benbow's header drifted harmlessly off-target.

The home side introduced Jordan Murphy for the final nine minutes in the hope of finding an equaliser.

## Yeltz Ladies are through to the semi-final



Sarah Hammill in the thick of the action for Halesowen as her side beat Rugby 6-1, with Sian Withall scoring a hat-trick to progress into the semi-final of the Open Cup and keep their unbeaten run going

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